

GLAAD Alert: 'Ellen' advertisers
targeted by radical religious groups. How
to support the sponsors who stuck by her.
page 14

Transsexual dad
Sharon Boyd fights to
visit her two children.
page 15

Idol worship
Ryan Idol talks about a
life spent 'Making Porn.'
see Arts section

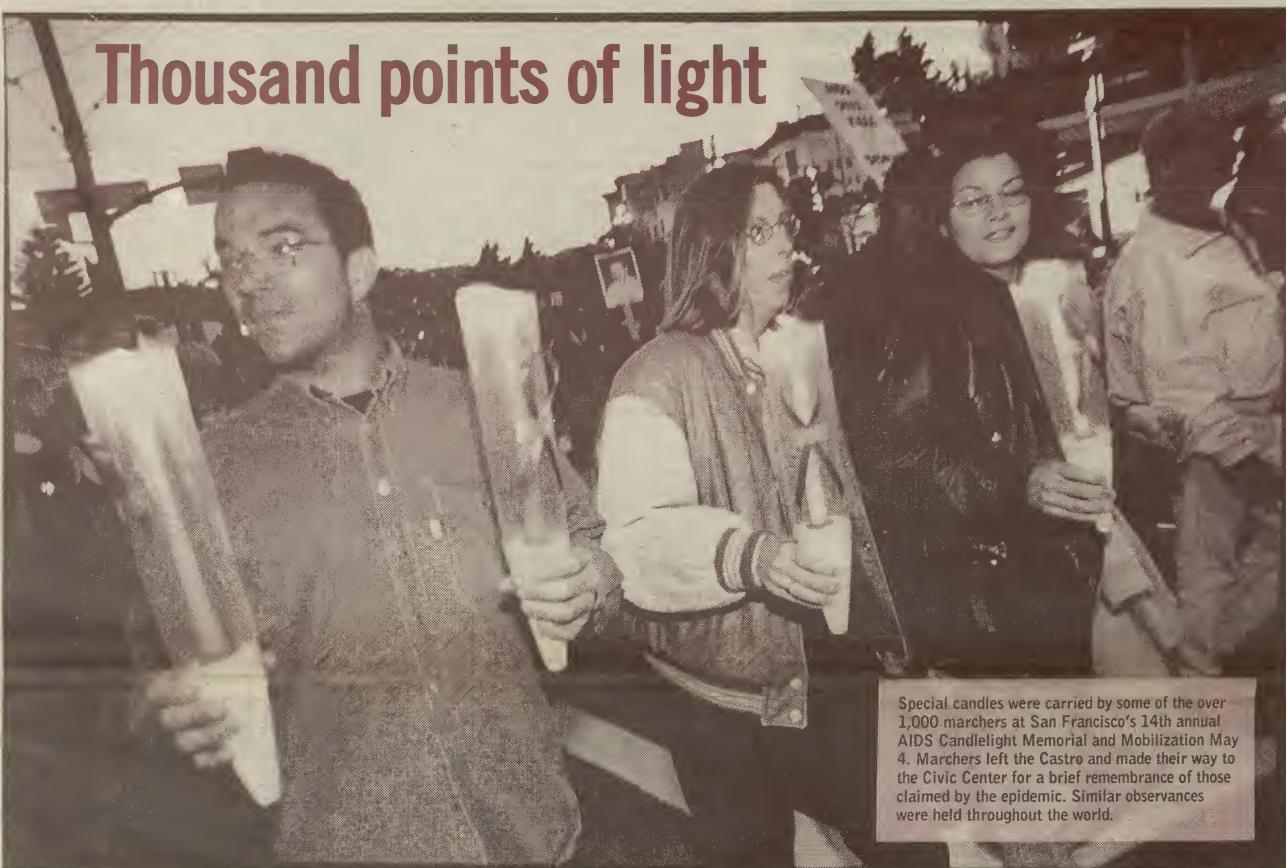


BAY AREA REPORTER

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Thousand points of light



Special candles were carried by some of the over 1,000 marchers at San Francisco's 14th annual AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization May 4. Marchers left the Castro and made their way to the Civic Center for a brief remembrance of those claimed by the epidemic. Similar observances were held throughout the world.

Rick Gerhardt

Robbers foiled in gay bar heist; they may be the elusive 'Hip Hop Bandits'

by Dennis Conkin

Customers tackled and subdued two suspects who allegedly pulled a weapon and used anti-gay epithets in a failed armed robbery at a popular Polk neighborhood gay bar at 1 a.m. on Monday, May 5.

James Dowell and Isaiah Downs remain in custody at the Hall of Justice on charges in connection with the attempted armed robbery of the Motherlode Bar on Larkin Street.

Police are investigating the link to a series of armed robberies of bars and restaurants, including three Castro area businesses, committed by a trio dubbed the "Hip Hop Bandits."

The suspects were arrested at the conclusion of a melee that brought an estimated ten police cars to the scene after Dowell turned a weapon — later identified as a BB gun — on a police officer.

According to witnesses, Dowell walked into the bar followed by Downs. After Downs slugged the bar's owner in the face during an altercation, a bartender managed to pull him off the owner and Downs was tackled by a customer. Witnesses said Dow-

ell pulled the weapon during the altercation.

When police arrived at the scene, Dowell pointed the weapon at one of the officers and yelled, "I'm going to kill you, you motherfucking pig," and managed to run up

Larkin Street, where he was again tackled by Motherlode patrons.

Dowell is held on \$50,000 bail on seven felony counts, including attempted robbery, conspiracy, assault with a firearm on a po-

lice officer, and three counts of assault with a deadly weapon. Dowell is held on \$30,000 bail on charges of conspiracy, battery, and attempted robbery.

A hearing on the charges is pending. ▼

Shanti to laud volunteers Saturday

by Dennis Conkin

Shanti Project will hold a volunteer alumni reunion appreciation party this Saturday, May 10 at the Russian Center of San Francisco at 2460 Sutter Street.

The evening features 1940s-style supper club dancing with entertainment by Rosie and the Radiators, and the Lesbian and Gay Chorus of San Francisco. Period dress is encouraged, and partygoers

will be feted with a complimentary dessert buffet and no-host bar.

Shanti founder and author Dr. Charles Garfield will make a special appearance and be available to sign copies of *Sometimes My Heart Goes Numb*, his new book about Shanti volunteers and their work with people with HIV infection.

"In this time of General Colin Powell's Volunteer Summit and a rediscovery of the power of kindred spirits working on behalf of those in need, this Shanti re-

page 12 ►

INSIDE

ACT UP	25
BAR Talk	52
Bazaar	50
Classifieds	27
GLAAD	14
Mailstrom	7
Obituaries	24
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out & About	48
Out There	35
Personals	54
Sapphistication	10
Sports Complex	26

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Atlanta cops bust ACT UP/SF member at animal rights demo

'I'm not interested in saving Fluffy'

by Dennis Conkin

A member of ACT UP/San Francisco was arrested with an estimated 70 protesters at an annual Atlanta animal rights protest outside Emory University's Yerkes Primate Center on Saturday, April 26.

The site is one of seven private research centers around the country and houses an estimated 1,700 primates from 15 different species used for medical experimentation and research.

Activist Todd Swindell was arrested with a large crowd of activists, including more than a dozen high school and college students who were participating in the event.

Swindell and ACT UP/San Francisco member Michael Bellefontaine were invited to the event by a coalition of groups including Last Chance For Animals, Animal Abuse Watch, and the Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade.

According to Bellefontaine, the controversial group supports

a ban on AIDS-related animal research because "there is no animal model for the human immune system."

But, Bellefontaine says, the basic issue is AIDS spending priorities.

"If there is no human immune system equivalent in animals, then all the research is irrelevant. If the research is irrelevant, then the money spent on immune system research is being wasted and would be better spent on feeding and housing people with AIDS," he said. "I'm not interested in saving Fluffy. I want the money. We're talking about billions of dollars being spent, and people are dying on the street."

The protesters were arrested after attempting to shove through police barricades, and a group ran through the woods in an effort to reach the primate center. Police used tear gas and pepper spray to gain control of the situation.

The \$14 million Yerkes Primate Center uses primates for behavioral and biomedical re-

search, including AIDS research and vaccine development, according to Yerkes spokeswoman Kate Egan. The claim doesn't impress ACT UP/SF members, who are not affiliated with the other ACT UP chapters in the Bay Area, ACT UP/Golden Gate or ACT UP/East Bay, both of which support animal testing.

"They hype up the primate center for being an AIDS research center. Where are they with that research and vaccine? If they are doing such stellar research, let's open up the books. Let's see what's going on," Swindell said.

Initially charged with creating a hazardous or offensive environment, Swindell was charged with destruction, criminal trespass, and inciting a riot, all misdemeanors.

Released after spending 36 hours in police custody, Swindell was issued a court order to stay away from Emory University and the Yerkes Primate center.

A preliminary hearing on the charges is set for May 20. ▼

Wagons are circling around 'Essential AIDS'

Local DA, state, and Southern California all investigating scam

by Cynthia Laird

Saying a Southern California-based AIDS fundraising group is "a nothing," the San Francisco District Attorney's office has launched an investigation into Essential AIDS Inc., which in March began distributing coin jars at city businesses. They copy the AIDS Emergency Fund's penny jar campaign, and use a similar slogan.

"Essential AIDS, Inc. is a nothing in California," Debra Hayes, chief in the special prosecutions unit at the DA's office, told the B.A.R. "We urge the public and merchants not to promote this organization."

Hayes said the California Secretary of State's office canceled incorporation documents for Essential AIDS, Inc., on December 12, 1995, so the group is not incorporated. "This is not a corporation, this is nothing. They have no protection from liability," Hayes said.

Investigators from the DA's office met with AEF's Joan Juster and other staff members on Monday, May 5 to discuss the case.

In mid-March, Belinda Johns with the state Attorney General's Office issued an order for Essential AIDS to stop the solicitations.

after it was determined the group has not met federal tax-exempt regulations. She also demanded financial records be submitted within 30 days.

Hayes said the DA's office is working on the case in conjunction with the attorney general's office and law enforcement authorities in Southern California, where Essential AIDS has placed collection containers. They do not have the permit required by the Los Angeles Police Department.

Juster said this week that the Essential AIDS containers are still popping up in stores, primarily corner markets. Cultural differences have made it difficult for Juster to explain the situation to some merchants, she said. To help solve that problem, AEF is in the process of putting together a consumer alert bulletin for merchant associations and foreign language newspapers.

Since the first suspicious coin containers began appearing in March, several agencies have gotten involved. AEF filed a suspected fraud report with San Francisco police after checking a purported Internal Revenue Service (IRS) identification number. Essential AIDS has on their containers. The IRS has no record of tax-exempt status being awarded to the group.

Officers were briefed about the case, and several have since spotted the containers while on their beats.

Essential AIDS uses the slogan "Every penny helps the fight against AIDS," which is remarkably similar to AEF's slogan of the past ten years, "Every penny counts." Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised locally by AEF that go directly to people living with AIDS. The financial assistance is often a last resort for those who have no other financial options, Juster said.

The evidence against Essential AIDS has only grown with time, officials said. They are not registered with the state's Registry of Charitable Trusts division. Additionally, the supposed beneficiaries of collected money, such as Stanford University, have no record of any contributions from the group.

An Essential AIDS letter that explains its goals lists a Los Angeles address and phone number. People who have answered that phone have refused to provide the group's tax-exempt letter, which they say exists, despite evidence showing it does not. ▼

For more information about AEF, call (415) 558-6999.

Another 'blooming fundraiser' OrchidMania hits SF this weekend

by Cynthia Laird

Just in time for Mother's Day, the "World's Largest Orchid Garage Sale" hits San Francisco, so why not stop by OrchidMania's eighth annual sale this Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11? Besides being lovely, the event benefits eight AIDS groups in the United States and Asia.

OrchidMania's free event promises to be one of the largest ever, with plenty of blooming plants that would make a great gift for Mom. An estimated 10,000 plants will be for sale; they are being donated by about 60 commercial orchid growers from around the U.S. and several foreign countries.

Douglas Thompson, OrchidMania president, said that in addition to the many blooming plants, orchid maniacs of every ilk will find something exciting at the event. While many of the plants to be sold are rare and unusual, there will be thousands of inexpensive plants for beginners to experiment with.

What started in 1989 on a funky Hayes Valley side street has become a Mother's Day tradition for Bay Area orchid lovers. At that first event, three volunteers staged the first orchid sale on overturned cardboard boxes on a Hickory Street sidewalk and raised \$9,000 for the AIDS Emergency Fund. The group now has nearly 50 volunteers who come from as far as New York for the May event.

Last year's sale raised \$45,000 for seven AIDS groups. This year the group is hoping to raise \$50,000, Thompson said.

Proceeds from this year's sale will help support eight grassroots AIDS organizations in California, Washington, Thailand, Cambodia, and Indonesia.

Besides the thousands of plants for sale, OrchidMania promises a full schedule of lectures and demonstrations; "orchid doctors" will also be on hand to dispense advice for ailing epiphytes and bewildered beginners.

This year's beneficiaries include:

- BASHES (Bay Area HIV Support Education Services) - The organization provides HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) education and prevention, individual counseling, referral, and other services in San Francisco, Alameda, Solano, Sonoma, and Santa Clara counties. The group was founded by Black and White Men Together and Men of All Colors Together.

- Camp Sunburst - This camp in the Sierras gives children with AIDS and their families a badly needed break from the social pressures that come with AIDS. Participants receive plenty of love, emotional support, and counseling in addition to recreation. The camp is staffed by volunteers and provides transportation to and from the camp from throughout the country.

- Genard AIDS Foundation - The agency provides various hospice care services in Contra Costa County. The foundation offers in-home attended care, respite care, and other services, including in-

page 12 ►



Floral fantasy: the first OrchidMania back in 1989.

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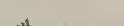
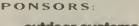
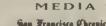
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Leslie Katz sued by former client

by Dennis Conkin

San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz allegedly engaged in a conspiracy to commit fraud against a law client after bungling the client's case, according to a lawsuit headed for a May 20 status conference in San Francisco Superior Court.

According to the allegations filed in *Pauls v. Katz et al.*, a 1996 legal malpractice complaint, Katz failed to file former client Sheila Pauls's lawsuit until nearly a month after the one-year statute of limitations deadline had passed.

According to the complaint, Katz also did not tell the client she had blown the deadline for nearly a year, but instead misrepresented that the litigation was ongoing. The complaint also alleges that after the Superior Court tossed out Pauls's lawsuit in December, 1995, Katz did not tell her.

Katz also allegedly later had Pauls sign an authorization form to release her private and confidential medical records, and then turned them over to her malpractice insurer without asking or telling Pauls.

The act violated Pauls's right to informed consent regarding the release of medical information.

"I'm not in a position to make any comment now," Katz said. "At this point, I'm trying to get it resolved. Settlement discussions are underway, or I thought they were," Katz told the B.A.R.

"She has filed a lawsuit, but at this point, she is on the second – if not third – attorney."

"If true, the allegations consti-

tute a betrayal of her client's confidence and trust," said Pauls's current attorney, Jim Butler.

Pauls is a video and film production assistant who hired Katz to represent her in a personal injury case in which she was severely injured on June 12, 1994 while working on a television commercial for Pacific Bell at a Southern California residential site. She had neck surgery related to an incident in which she was severely injured while moving a barbecue grill on the property. She also suffered bone separation and three major disc problems in the accident, according to Butler.

was not authorized to disclose, and used the information for a purpose that was not disclosed and that the client would not have allowed," Butler said.

Katz allegedly acted to undermine Pauls's malpractice claim against her, the lawsuit claims.

"What's particularly egregious is that when she tells her malpractice carrier, the carrier allegedly tells her to get a release of medical information from the client to be used to undermine the client against the lawyer," said Butler.

"The reason people don't like lawyers is that sometimes lawyers act in an untrustworthy way.

Katz allegedly did not tell her client Sheila Pauls that she had blown the one-year statute of limitations deadline.

Katz allegedly failed to file a lawsuit on her client's behalf until July 11, 1995, almost one month after the one-year statute of limitations had expired in the case. Katz also allegedly failed to serve a summons to the defendants in the case until October 1995.

The lawsuit charges that Katz violated her client's right to privacy, was acting against her client's interests, and was attempting to defend herself against a possible malpractice claim when she obtained and then provided Pauls's medical records to her malpractice insurance carrier.

"That took information which was entrusted to her and that she

When clients come to lawyers, they put complete trust in them. Her [Katz's] first duty was to her client," Butler said.

Claims Resource Management, Inc. and Reliance National Insurance Company are named as defendants in the suit, as are attorney Jeff Kors and attorney Bruce Quan, who formed a law partnership with Katz during the time Pauls was her client.

Katz also allegedly breached state Bar codes governing professional conduct in the case, as well as sections of the state's business and professions codes, according to the lawsuit. ▼

Coletti tax fraud scheme snare promoter

by Dennis Conkin

Well-known entertainment promoter Audrey Joseph pleaded guilty last February to a single count of conspiracy to defraud the federal government, her attorney has confirmed. The felony plea was in connection with an income tax refund scam allegedly involving former Imperial Court Emperor Jerry Coletti. She will not serve a federal prison term, attorney Nanci Clarence said.

Coletti, the onetime gay bar and restaurant owner, remains held without bail in a local federal jail facility pending trial on mail, tax fraud, and conspiracy charges following his March 17

arrest on the tax scam charges.

Coletti allegedly fraudulently obtained the Social Security numbers of 30 men, many with HIV infection, and forged their signatures to phony income tax refund claims that used his address.

Joseph was duped into cashing the checks through her business, Clarence said, and then into writing checks to Coletti for cash.

Clarence said that Joseph believed the income was being distributed by Coletti to the people the checks were made out.

"She thought he was paying the money back to them. She thought she was doing something to help sick people, and it turned out that what she was doing was not technically legal," Clarence said.

"She didn't know until she got a visit from IRS investigators."

Coletti allegedly told Joseph that the banking arrangement would prevent the men from losing AIDS-related disability benefits because their incomes were too high.

According to the indictment, Coletti used Joseph's bank account to cash and disburse 13 of the 30 tax refund checks received.

Coletti netted about \$75,000 in the tax fraud scheme, but could have netted \$200,000 if he had not been caught, sources claim.

He faces an estimated 18-20 months in federal prison if convicted on the charges, which were brought at the conclusion of a nearly three-year criminal investigation. ▼

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Maintenance worker sues UCSF over anti-gay workplace

by Dennis Conkin

Chilling allegations of anti-gay workplace violence, including sexual harassment and repeated verbal humiliation and abuse, have emerged in a lawsuit filed against the University of California at San Francisco by a gay, HIV-positive former UCSF maintenance worker March 17.

A UCSF spokesman said that he was unable to comment on the matter because of the litigation.

Lennard Brown, a former senior building maintenance staffer, charges in the civil action that the workplace harassment was so emotionally damaging to him that his physician temporarily declared him disabled.

Brown also alleges that instead of protecting him from further anti-gay violence on the job, UCSF officials ordered him to return to work with the same supervisors and workers who had perpetrated the alleged abuse in the first place.

"It's one of the more outrageous cases of discrimination that we've seen, in terms of the seriousness of the conduct and its duration," said attorney Gary Cloutier of the Law Offices of Paul Wotman.

Hired in 1989, Brown said in the civil complaint that shortly after he began working at UCSF he was approached by Lee Jackson, a maintenance team leader, and asked if he was married. When Brown said no, according to the suit, Jackson responded, "Well, you're not gay or anything like that, are you?"

When Brown said that, in fact, he was, Jackson said that as long as Brown did not try any "funny stuff," he would treat the worker "like a man."

The lawsuit alleges that Jackson then told Brown's co-workers he was gay, and throughout his employment Brown was subjected to a "steady stream of gay jokes."

In one early incident detailed in the lawsuit, Jackson allegedly paged Brown but left a return number for the White Aryan Resistance. When Brown returned the page, he was subjected to a virulently anti-gay recording suggesting that "faggots are the lowest form of life" and should be killed.

According to the lawsuit, Jackson and Brown's co-workers thought the incident amusing.

"Jackson and the co-workers laughed and said [Brown] was 'getting hard' listening to the recording," according to Cloutier's brief.

'RIP: Good riddance'

UCSF's world-renowned reputation for compassionate and humane care for people with HIV/AIDS apparently meant little to Brown's supervisors, according to allegations detailed in the formal Superior Court complaint.

When Frank Fasano became Brown's supervisor in December 1993, Brown informed him that

vere emotional trauma caused by the workplace abuse, according to the lawsuit.

In November 1996, Brown returned to work.

In March 1996, in front of co-workers, Jackson allegedly asked Brown if he "took it up the ass," called him "a cocksucker," and allegedly grabbed his crotch and told Brown to "suck on this," according to the suit.

In March 1996, in front of co-workers, Jackson allegedly asked Brown if he 'took it up the ass,' called him 'a cocksucker,' and allegedly grabbed his crotch and told Brown to 'suck on this,' according to the lawsuit.

had been absent from work because his lover was ill with AIDS.

Fasano's response was to ask if Brown was HIV-positive—and when Brown said yes, Fasano's reply was to "keep his doctor's visits to a minimum."

A month later, on January 15, 1994, Brown's lover died. On January 18, Jackson allegedly placed a cartoon on the entrance door to the workshop in the basement at Cowell Hospital, according to the suit.

The writing was a cartoon picture of a tombstone which said "RIP" and underneath it, "Good Riddance." When Brown opened the door, Jackson was inside the workshop. Brown tore the cartoon up but Jackson allegedly told him to put it back on the door because he thought it was "funny."

But the allegations detailed in the lawsuit are no laughing matter to anti-gay violence expert Lester Olmstead-Rose of Community United Against Violence, who told the B.A.R., "More and more of the incidents that are reported to us are neighbor-to-neighbor or workplace-related incidents."

Olmstead-Rose said that in the "continuum of violence," escalating verbal assaults and harassment are serious issues in themselves, but are also precursors.

"The allegations in this complaint are consistent with what we see leading up to physical attack. They are indicators," he said.

Tormentors still at UCSF

Dr. Jeremy Berge, Brown's physician, placed him on six months' disability due to the se-

Berge placed Brown back on disability, and said that he would only let Brown return if he were safe and free from on-the-job harassment—but in December 1996, when Brown was well enough to return to work, UCSF officials ordered him to return to work under Jackson.

Both supervisors named as Brown's alleged harassers in the suit remain employed by UCSF.

A status conference will be held in the case on August 22. ▼

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Media Degeneration

Last week a couple of really remarkable things happened: national television grew up, prompted by sit-com star Ellen DeGeneres, and local newspapers regressed into near-infancy, prompted by gay politico Jack Davis's 50th birthday party.

First things first: because *Ellen* is broadcast a few hours after the *B.A.R.* gets printed, we had no idea when last week's issue went to bed whether the TV character's coming out would be (or could be) worth all the months of hype. In case you missed the episode, it was.

Even the most cynical viewer had to be pleasantly surprised by the show's depth, breadth, comedy, pathos, and strength. It stood head and shoulders above any other situation comedy we remember seeing in years, and rated with the "Cicely" episode of *Northern Exposure* a few years back as terrific theatre that entertained, informed viewers about lesbianism, and educated without being preachy. Even at a full hour, the broadcast seemed far too short; and although we usually don't care out time every week to watch the same television show, we'll be parked in front of ABC for many more Wednesday nights to follow.

ABC's gamble paid off in several ways. The episode is clearly Emmy-winning material. It also attracted a 35 share across America (and about ten points better than that here), which is more than twice its usual number. And advertising rates went up, proving that being gay is not box-office poison, but actually the opposite.

All in all, the broadcast was just about perfect, except for Chrysler, General Motors, Wendy's, and Johnson & Johnson advertisements – all of which were conspicuous by their absence. Chrysler, remember, makes all those Jeeps that crowd the curbs in the Castro. With so many gay customers, it seems absurd that the company felt it necessary to distance itself from the subject matter. Fortunately, if you want to point

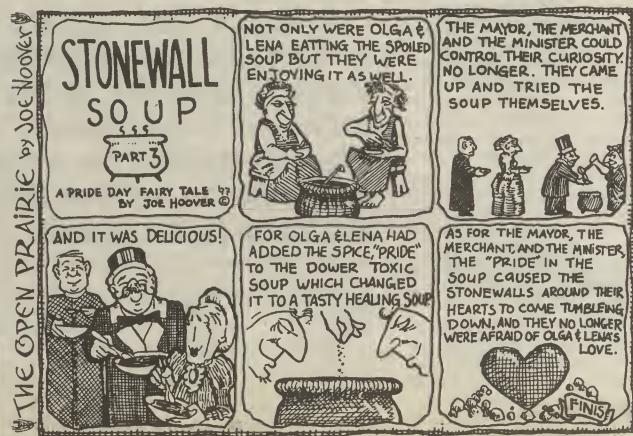
that out, Chrysler has set up a number specifically to get *Ellen* feedback. Interestingly, fundies and far right groups learned about the number long before the gay community, so the early calls were mostly from people who thought the company was right to jump ship.

To give the opposite point of view, call 1-800-992-1997, go through the first list of options, and stay on the line "for an operator." You will then be offered another list of options – press 1 for their Media/PR line; 2 for their "Ellen" line; and finally 2 again to disagree with withdrawal of sponsorship from the show. You don't talk at any time; your vote is recorded when you press the second 2. It's easy, fast, and free. And it's important: if a woman can say "I'm gay" in front of 42 million people, it's

worth a minute to give her (and the gay workers at Chrysler whose situations are not improving) your support.

Finally, on the local scene, it seems the *Examiner* and *Chronicle* are entirely too obsessed with a prominent gay man's recent private birthday party. Is the obsession based on homophobia and sex negativity? We think so, and we think that unless they're going to send their blue-nosed reporters barging into other private celebrations, they should move on to the business of reporting the news and leave gay partygoers alone.

As the commentator below points out, there are many more important subjects to discuss. And, frankly, we don't need anyone – and least of all, the *Chron* and *Ex* – telling us what is morally correct or outrageous. ▼



Email: opine@vixen.com
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Editorial

Forward to the past:
the new Puritanism

by Clara Fraser

Repent, all ye sinners. The age of neoprudery is upon us, and fire and brimstone await. The scarlet letter, that shameful badge of Adultery, has returned to berate us.

The media wallows these days in news of people "cheating" on their state-approved significant others. Dick Morris confesses, Bill Cosby apologizes, Madonna announces a turn to virtue, and talk show hosts and counselors moralize about betrayal and deceit, as if departure from monogamy is high treason.

Just why is adultery the number one Thou Shalt Not?

Here's a clue. Cheating is a financial term, and it can only be applied to sexual relationships if female and male bodies are seen as personal property – which, in this commodity-ruled patriarchy, they are, since paternity still dictates who inherits what. In today's climate of economic anxiety and blind narcissism, the noxious idea that people can own people (as in slavery) erupts like a beanstalk.

But crass reality must be dressed up if medieval mores are to sell. So here comes GOD to ordain fidelity to be Right, and fornication (extracurricular) Wrong.

For the nonbelievers, pop culture takes over. Jealousy is not even depicted as mercenary or egomaniacal or super possessive anymore. It's currently noble. The good wife who uses any bloody means necessary to ward off interlopers, à la Fatal Attraction, is a movie cliché.

What's more, celibacy is the prescription du jour even for singles, especially females, teenagers, and the poor. The new welfare destruction bill allotots not one penny for jobs, but provides millions to push abstinence!

The flight from the more relaxed practices of many people is part of a larger retrenchment. Renewed sexual conservatism is rooted in and nurtures the general regression. And nowhere is the backsiding more pronounced than in the mass movements of the '60s, which have all shape-shifted into their veritable opposites.

For instance, when feminists first proclaimed "the personal is political," we hardly expected that the personal would replace the political, with tawdry gossip about officials' bedroom peccadilloes substituting for discussion of their policies and becoming the basis for measuring their "characters!" Certainly, we condemn sex harassment, but truly consenting behavior is nobody else's business, and rarely reveals much about someone's integrity or worth.

Our point back then was that the oppression of women is not accidental or isolated, but a symptom of a universal second-class role that the whole dismal for-profit system depends on. This fact, however, has been stood on its head in the recent welfare laws, which blame individual women for broad social ills. And the National Organization for Women's top strata failed to robustly resist this monstrous "reform" because they support Bill Clinton, despite his treachery on the issues.

Likewise, when street queers and drag queens revolted at the Stonewall Inn in 1969, the uprising they set off prioritized sexual liberation as a matter of principle. They correctly identified homophobia as key to deification of the traditional family. But now the movement focuses on sexual self-policing and respectability mongering.

Gay pacesetters demand entrance into

the heavenly domain of bourgeois wedded bliss, as gay couples plead they are straighter than straights – less inclined to "stray" or (gasp) divorce. Granted, the right of gays to marry is legitimate, but how foolish to elevate it to First Cause – and how ironic, at a time when old-school marriage is exiting the stage of history.

The civil rights movement, for its part, started out fired up to abolish the color line and gain total integration – not assimilation, but access to every civic benefit.

Yet, after decades of backlash, the African-American cause has largely subsided into cultural nationalism, which stresses differences with other races and with Jews rather than human similarities. It glamorizes separation and unrealistically champions black business as the solution to ghetto poverty. This ideology is disastrous, because when people of color remove themselves from their working class sisters and brothers, they remove an essential leadership sector from the common struggle of all the have-nots.

Nationalism, moreover, is infused inevitably with sexist baggage, relegating women to inferior status and outdoing the white establishment in condemning homosexuality.

All right, you've heard it before. Reform must grow into revolution or twist into reaction. It's an immutable law of nature – things go forward or backward. At the moment, society is headed cataclysmically in the wrong direction.

To a socialist, personal relations should be symbolized by openness, not a chastity belt. To a socialist, it's not the market that should be free but love. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Flashiest and zoomiest

Re: Lesbian Gay Transgender Bisexual Community Center.

Kudos to our underrated and undeterred local architects who set out in earnest to donate a lot of time, energy, emotion (and out-of-pocket expenses) in the hope of creating the most inspired balance between artistic expression, structural integrity, public accommodation, and real world budget to give us a much-needed community center. Public buildings have to endure a lot of hard use with not much maintenance, so their designers tend to allocate their money for better materials rather than zoomy shapes – not an easy task when trying to win a design competition.

So considering the difficulty of the project, my friends and I were ecstatic over the number of competition entries – that there were 31, possibly representing the labor of over 150 people. How to choose? We studied them carefully and wanted to make sure we were not swayed by the flashiest presentation. Instead, we looked for creativity, constructibility, and function. It was fun comparing notes with others at the exhibit. We were only slightly disappointed that our clear favorite (one with a stair tripping down the Market Street façade) did not make the final cut, but life is strange that way.

At the presentations, the finalists all seemed like very nice people and capable of doing the work. Tough job for the judges, who also had excellent credentials. So imagine our surprise when the winner was the entry with the flashiest graphics and zoomiest forms. That design also disregarded the functional program the most, may be the least buildable, may be the most expensive to maintain and cost about three to four times the stated budget. I have been in construction for 20 years on both coasts, and figure this is going to be an expensive ride.

I hope the high construction cost, daunting maintenance program, and lack of functional interior of the winning scheme will not prevent this from being funded and completed within my lifetime.

Marc Rothstein
San Francisco

Shanti rehash

I was very happy to see your prominent coverage of Kurt Wuehlner's appointment as Interim Director of Shanti [B.A.R., 4/24]. As the need for our services continues unabated, the HIV/AIDS communities of San Francisco benefit from the awareness your coverage creates.

I would like to point out, however, that in virtually every article about Shanti that appears in your paper, your reporters rehash the story, now five years old, of the loss of Shanti's housing contract due to accounting irregularities. While this news was certainly remarkable at the time, it is not germane to Shanti's mission, identity or work in the community today. Yes, this organization's accounting procedures were faulty. Yes, Shanti won a judgment against our former accounting firm in binding arbitration last year, and we were able to repay our debt to the city without the use of private funds better allocated to client services. And yes, our Executive Director and Deputy Director resigned at the time.

Since then, Shanti has improved financial controls, and our audits for the past four years have shown strict compliance with all of the complex laws governing non-profit accounting procedures. More importantly, service to our clients was never disrupted. We continue to train volunteers to provide one-on-one emotional and practical support to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Currently, 182 volunteers assist 215 clients. We have increased ridership in our Transportation Program to accommodate 96% of client requests, and in the past nine months have given more than 7,000 rides to medical and social service appointments – already up from the 5,775 rides we provided in all of last year. We have added writing, drama and Qi Gong classes to our Activities Program, and annually distribute almost half a million dollars worth of donated tickets to social, cultural and recreational events to more than 800 clients. Our Latino Program has almost doubled, to serve 115 Latino clients with a wide range of services in a culturally appropriate manner. Shanti is alone among the major AIDS service providers in offering long-term rather than time-limited case management; our Case Management Program works with 2,000 clients to develop individualized service plans and to open doors to HIV/AIDS services throughout San Francisco. The AIDS Office routinely rates Shanti's service provision at the highest possible levels.

These milestones are the real news about Shanti. We have moved on in the past five years. Why hasn't the Bay Area Reporter?

Claire Rappoport
Vice Chair, Shanti Board of Directors



Mailstrom

The federal treatment

Federal government "out of control?" G-persons acting like "jack-booted thugs?" (Editorial, April 24) If B.A.R. thinks those are exclusively right-wing attitudes, then the editors have forgotten the politics of America B.W. (Before Waco). You don't need to be far-wrong to get the federal treatment.

The FBI opened my file before I could legally drink. So when newbies express surprise at tyranny, I recall the definition of "radical" as a "moderate who's been tear-gassed."

See you at next year's SF Anarchist Book Fair?

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

[We've heard a conservative is a liberal who's been mugged; a liberal is a conservative who's been arrested.]

Support your local title-holder

It is that time of year when many locals are vying for status as community leaders. Contest after contest are being held to choose new representatives. Recently, Gary Virginia stepped down as Mr. SF Leather. His dedication to the community was only overshadowed by the size and warmth of his heart. As a San Franciscan and a reigning title-holder, I commend Gary on a job well done.

Our community is large and diverse. Whether one has a sash, crown, medallion or title vest doesn't matter. It is how we carry ourselves and what we do with our lives. Gary, it has been a pleasure working with and getting to know you. Thank you for such a wonderful year. Take a well-deserved vacation and keep on smiling.

To the new Mr. SF Leather, Tom Powers: my conversations with you may have been brief, but I like what I hear. Gary is a tough act to follow, but remember – this is your year, and I have faith it will be just as great. Believe in yourself and call if you need anything.

To the people of San Francisco: please respect and support your titleholders. They make our Mecca that magical place we can proudly call home.

The Sterling Silver Rose
Emperor Jacques Michaels

Preserving queer history

It's always a bit perplexing to know how to respond to letters like that of John Cailleau. (*Mailstrom*, 4/17) complaining about the Gay & Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California (GLHS). Many believe that the best response to such letters is no response. While I can see the wisdom in such a course, this is the second time Mr. Cailleau has written letters making odd claims about GLHS, and I'd like to provide a friendly clarification.

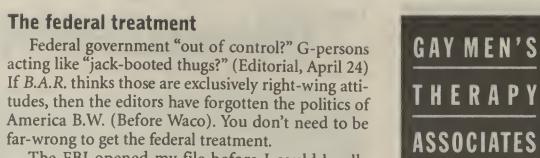
I don't speak for GLHS or its Board of Directors. I'm writing as a professional archivist who for many years has volunteered time and energy to GLHS and its mission to preserve the histories of queer communities in the greater Bay Area. I'm not sure who Mr. Cailleau thinks the "witnesses and makers" of this history are; my view holds that we all are. If he is referring to the several hundred people who have donated material to the archives over the past dozen years, he couldn't ask for a better crowd. The GLHS Archives document gay life as far back as the 1920s, and includes records of such organizations as the Daughters of Bilitis, the Tavern Guild, CRH, SIR, the Committee for Homosexual Freedom, Bay Area Gay Liberation, the Royal Court, GGBA, BWMT, CUAV, ACT UP, the AIDS/ARC Vigil, the Women's Building, the Asian Pacific AIDS Coalition, GLAAD, and dozens of other groups, as well as the personal papers and photographs of nearly 150 individuals. In addition, the GLHS Oral History group has recorded and transcribed hundreds of hours of taped interviews. Until recent times, this has been the only organization north of Los Angeles that has worked to preserve queer history. GLHS is very pleased to now share that interest with the SF Public Library and Stanford University's Green Library.

GLHS membership is open to anyone, and any member can attend Board meetings, read meeting minutes, or run for the Board itself. Programs and exhibits are conceived of and produced by volunteer members. It is quite true that this organization needs improvement. I invite Mr. Cailleau and others concerned about our history, to join in and help. This is a community-based organization run entirely by volunteers. While everyone has a right to their opinion, I do suggest that standing back and criticizing the people who are donating time and energy to get this work done is not a terribly effective method of creating change.

The GLHS Archives are open every Saturday & Sunday from 2-5 p.m. Volunteers are always needed; if you might be interested in helping, come on down and check it out.

[Editor's note: Sorry you're unhappy.]

Willie Walker
San Francisco



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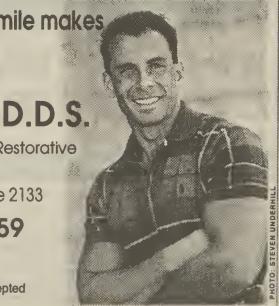


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LETTERS

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Tips for Ellen

After watching Ellen DeGeneres' "official" coming out on ABC last Wednesday night, I have a few thoughts I'd like to share with your readers.

I enjoyed the show immensely and applaud the sponsors who so bravely advertised their products in such a controversial time-slot. I do, however, have some problems with the Diane Sawyer *PrimeTime Live* interview which immediately followed.

Why, oh why is Ellen "coming out" at this late stage of the fame? She's been gay for years! Her mother — what was her name, Bozo? — claims she admitted it at the tender age of 13. Her brother also made a brief appearance, claiming he and Ellen had sex with some on the same people. Barbara, please! If she's not gay, neither is Richard Simmons. I almost expected Diane Sawyer to say she herself is a dyke, but of course, her ratings are much too high for that.

Some "divine" advice, Ellen?

Start dressing like a dyke, sport a pink D.A. with Elvis Presley sideburns, and move to Boise, Idaho!

Lois Turd 2000
San Francisco

Why can't men understand?

Robert Bray protests too much about Ellen DeGeneres [B.A.R. guest editorial, April 24]. Joining Jerry Falwell in attacking a lesbian is preposterous coming from a so-called "progressive." Wearing a T-shirt with "Ellen" crossed out on it, as Bray did in the *Examiner*, shows a shocking insensitivity. Men always look bad when they dump on women, as every politician knows. When it's a gay man criticizing a woman just coming out, it's in especially bad taste, especially coming from a former "spokesperson" for the Task Force. No wonder it's often criticized as "irrelevant."

It's insulting to women to dump on Ellen, and by extension on everyone enjoying her success. Whenever a woman becomes too successful there will be people who'll tear her down. But it shouldn't be our own people. No wonder she distances herself from "activists." Why suddenly complain about celebrity worship, when it's been going on for years? Why pick on Ellen when she's made it on talent and not through connections like Candace or Chastity, except that they're movement darlings? It wouldn't happen if she were a man. Rock Hudson only came out when he had no choice. At least she's doing it voluntarily. Successful women are still threatening to men, and I suspect what Bray objects to is being beaten at his own game of "spin."

Idolizing Allen Ginsberg of the misogynist Beats while complaining Ellen is "too commercial" shows the kind of muddled thinking we've gotten from "activists." Ginsberg sold his papers to Stanford for over a million dollars. I applaud Ellen's refusal to be a poster child, and her honest critique of the movement. It's a breath of fresh air that's long overdue. The "professionally gay," who live off rich donors and corporate and government grants to "nonprofits," have no business criticizing those who work for a living. A man making \$100K per episode would be lionized for his success.

Straight men are notorious for monopolizing TV remote controls. Evidently, gay men are no different. Allowing women to enjoy themselves by indulging our own tastes is too much to ask, even if we've had to put up with years of dreary SDS reporting. Many women have had the experience of wanting to watch something on TV in a bar or restaurant only to be told, "It's only for sports." In other words, what men want to watch.

I never understood the craze for Greg Louganis, or the young men on *Friends* or *Melrose Place*. But I wouldn't call press conferences criticizing others' taste and claiming mine as superior. But men think they're the arbiters of taste.

That kind of chauvinism delegitimizes the movement as a whole. If gay men can't accommodate women as equals, homosexuality isn't a paradigm most people will support, and the cause of gay rights will be lost.

The Beats were notoriously misogynist and peculiar idols for a "progressive." Their history of abusing wives (even killing them in Burroughs's case), abandoning children (Kerouac's daughter), and treating women like doormats looks very different from a woman's point of view and makes Ellen look like a paragon of virtue. Why can't men understand that?

Lastly, since when is Bray the voice of the city? "We in San Francisco do things differently" is arrogant a lot to himself, as a recent arrival. I lived in Ginsberg's Lower East Side neighborhood for a decade, but I think most people over 30 would choose Beverly Hills over the East Village any day.

Until "activists" catch on to that, they'll remain irrelevant. Bray has probably never lived in New York himself, but why let not knowing what you're talking about keep you from pontificating?

Sandy De Wine
Berkeley, CA

[Why, indeed? Being unsure about that — and other facts — doesn't stop you from pontificating.]

Top-notch critic

[The following letter was sent to arts writer Daniel Harris:]

Your position on "gay marriage" detailed in your review of Andrew Sullivan's new book is thoughtful "on point." Your reasoning, writing style, and use of language are top-notch. I can only hope that you are planning a book of your own.

Great job! I will watch for your byline.

Peter Nardoza
San Francisco

[Daniel Harris' *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture* will be available from Hyperion Books on May 30.]

No competition

Re: Jonathan Wright's Guest Opinion, "Do pot stores need policing?" [B.A.R., 4/17]:

Your author's bio is a total fabrication. Jonathan Wright did not work for a delivery service at the time of his writing his editorial [sic], "Do pot stores need policing?" and he has never worked for Medical Marijuana Delivery Service. This bio makes it sound like Mr. Wright speaks for "a marijuana delivery service," which in fact he does not.

Secondly, this is not an issue of competition. The Medical Marijuana Delivery Service is not in competition with anyone. We focus on the people unable to go out for their herb; the costs of delivery make this non-profit, even if money was our interest. We do not want a huge client load, and since we only take physically, critically ill clients, we hope against tremendous growth. As for Mr. Peron, I think he is a silly man, and worry that his zeal for legalization might endanger the medical marijuana issue.

Mr. Wright takes a swipe at the District Attorney, saying, "I expected better leadership in this issue from Terence Hallinan." Grow up! The D.A. has done everything possible to defend medical marijuana, and has rightfully placed provider centers under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health rather than the District Attorney's office, since this has become a health issue, not a legal one. But Hallinan has said that should the centers get into any kind of legal trouble, he will gladly go to bat for them. Furthermore, the Department of Public Health has been extremely helpful in working with the centers to develop an ethical, smooth-working program for the safe distribution of medicine to needy, critically ill patients. The DPH goes above and beyond any reasonable expectation. This is a complex issue; it will take time to sort out.

Merrie Krell
Executive Director,
Medical Marijuana Delivery Service

[The attribution was corrected in last week's B.A.R.]

Native American example

The gay medical marijuana crowd should remember those who have fought this sort of battle before. The Native American Church won the right of religious use of peyote for traditional Native Americans. The Pentagon has now agreed to allow members of NAC who are soldiers to use peyote. Now there's a mind-blower! Will the DEA bust them, too?

Perhaps it is time for someone to establish, say, the American Church of the HIV Positive. The battle to legitimize medical, and/or just plain recreational use of marijuana could be taken to new heights (or lows). Just thinking about the street theater potential makes me smile.

Thornton Kimes
San Francisco

B-I-N-G-O, wow!

We had been enjoying your city for two weeks when we saw a sandwich sign announcing Gay Bingo in the Castro.

So we decided to go and had one of the best times of our lives. All the players were helpful since we were so-called virgins, and the volunteers were very gracious.

It was called "Night of a Thousand Stars," and did they ever mean it. Lots to see, lots of laughs, they presented checks to three charities, and the halftime production made most of us cry.

Our hats are off to "Big Ben" and his staff of "angels." We will be back next year and try to win more money. Denver should start this!

Michael Richmond
Robert Ellis
Denver, CO

[For information on Coming Home Hospice Bingo, call 552-2127.]

Keep letters short, to the point, and legible. Send them to the B.A.R. at 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco 94103. Please include your telephone number for our verification purposes.

POLITICS

Übergubernatorialism

by Wayne Friday

While the rest of the Democratic field waits for Senator **Dianne Feinstein's** decision on next year's gubernatorial contest, the races for the remaining statewide constitutional posts appear to be shaping up. Sacramento businessman and former state Demo Party chair **Phil Angelides** (who is credited with guiding his party to a big win in 1992) looks like the probable Democratic nominee for state treasurer next year. His GOP opponent will likely be state Senator **Jim Brulte**, who as an assemblyman was credited with the GOP takeover of the Assembly, even though he was never allowed to become speaker. Angelides is a liberal Democrat, pro-choice, gay-friendly; Brulte is a traditional, pro-life conservative.

East Bay state Senator **Bill Lockyer**, currently the Senate president, already has a large political war chest and is still the likely Democratic choice to succeed outgoing Attorney General **Dan Lungren**, the certain GOP nominee for governor. At least two conservative state senators, **Robert Mountjoy** and **Tim Leslie**, have decided to fight it out for the GOP nod to oppose Lockyer.

**Our Man Friday**

Leslie, as B.A.R. readers are aware, recently introduced the legislation that would have banned sex clubs throughout California. Incidentally, SF/San Mateo state Senator **Quentin Kopp** (I) is talking of rejoining the Democratic Party next year to run for attorney general as well, but not too many Democrats are listening – at least not at the moment.

At least three GOP lawmakers will probably enter the primary for lieutenant governor, a post that will become vacant when Gray Davis leaves the job to run for governor. San Jose Mayor **Susan Hammer** is thought to be interested, as are a couple of assemblymembers about to be "termed out" of office.

Secretary of State **Bill Jones**, a Republican, is also thought to be considering a run for lieutenant governor as well next year. Some of Jones's supporters consider the LG spot a political promotion, but Jones will more than likely run for re-election to his current job, where he would be the favorite against any Democratic nominee.

Look for state Controller **Kathleen Connell** to eventually file for re-election to her current post. And you can expect Republican primary candidates to veer all the way to the right; for now only ultraconservatives seem interested in the right to oppose Connell.

Ultimately, the success or lack thereof for most of the statewide candidates rests on who the eventual nominee for governor is. All recent polls name Dianne Feinstein as the state's most popular elected politician, and her name at the top of the ticket next year could mean the Democratic Party has a better-than-ever chance of recapturing some of the statewide offices, such as state treasurer, attorney general and even secretary of state. These same polls show Feinstein beating Lungren.

Renaissance man

Bob Dole – the Republican Man of the Hour in D.C.? Just



Bryant's gone bust: The noted hatemonger is millions in debt.

when the country thought the 73-year-old lifelong politico was all washed up, the guy seems to be everywhere, doing just about everything. First, he bails out Speaker **Newt Gingrich**, a man

he never really liked, with a whopping (chump change for Dole) \$300,000 loan. (Gingrich now finds himself in the unusual and perhaps uncomfortable position of being forever in Dole's debt.) Then the White House immediately

lines up Dole to help bolster the Chemical Weapons Treaty (he who was once the treaty's worst enemy), which gives Majority Leader **Trent Lott** an excuse to abandon his right-wing allies and also support it. Then it becomes law, thanks again to "has-been" Bob.

A man who has lost a national election for the White House is usually tossed out to the political vultures. (Look at the fates of **Michael Dukakis** and **Walter Mondale**.) But not Beltway Bob; this guy has gone from incredible loser to indispensable loaner and eventually party statesman in less than six months. Can there be any doubt that Bob Dole will become Liddy Dole's campaign manager in a couple of years?

Speaking of politicos, New York Democrats are loudly saying that movie star **Alec Baldwin** is "seriously" listening to their pleas to run for Congress from his native Long Island next year against an entrenched GOP veteran.

Unending Ellen: You thought it was safe to turn on the TV again? Wrong! There was **Ralph Reed** protégé (and new GOP national chairman) **James Nicholson** the other night decrying **Ellen DeGeneres** as not a good model of a "family kind of life." I don't know; her mom is awful sweet, and her brother is really cute. All that plus **Anne Heche**!

Chivalry Is Not Dead Dept.: That nice **Eddie Murphy** stopping to give a "lady" a lift out of a bad part of town! What a guy! Bet the missus was impressed!

The state Demo Party wants you to know that the new party officers are: **Art Torres**, chair; **Alicia Want**, first vice chair; **Alex Rookers**, second vice chair; **Antonio Salazar Hobson**, controller; and **Jim Clark**, secretary.

Dee Dee Myers, former White House press secretary and **CNN Equal Time** co-host, is moving back to her hometown of LA. Some think Ms. Dee Dee has a congressional race in her future. ▼



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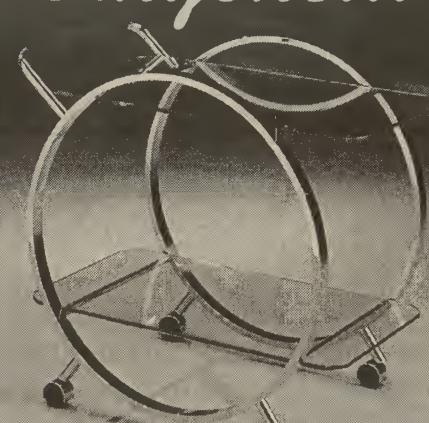
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Power lunch



Assemblywoman Carole Migden (left) chats with writer Andrew Sullivan at Soma's Eleven Restaurant at a May 4 luncheon benefiting the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. Sullivan, former editor of the New Republic and editor of Same-Sex Marriage: Pro and Con, was the special guest speaker at the event. The GLVF helps fund openly gay and lesbian candidates running for office across America.

Jane Philomen Cleland

Freedom to be compelled

by Beth Elliott

How about all those flaps over advertising on Ellen's coming-out episode? Did a bunch of folks look foolish, or what? Bill "Politically Incorrect" Maher explained ABC's turning down the Olivia Cruises spot as their failure to understand a cruise line guaranteeing you would go down with the ship. Frank Rich of *The New York Times* said that if a cruise ship commercial could actually damage his kids' heterosexuality, his concern would be those Kathie Lee Gifford Princess Cruise spots. (Can you think of any princesses worth cruising?)

After I made such a fuss about trying to write satire, along comes the EEOC to mow me down in the other lane, just like Wile E. Coyote. Did you know you may now ignore dress codes at work, exhibit poor judgment, act in a hostile manner to your co-workers, ignore punctuation completely, do just about everything short of "going postal" — and not only keep your job, but get special accommodations and even a "coach" to help you work? That's right! All you have to do is say, "I'm stressed and depressed," and you have put your employer on notice under the Americans With Disabilities Act that you may have a mental impairment they must accommodate. (And you can't criticize me for this commentary without committing ableism — I've got Flustered Overintelligent Writer's Sarcastic Outburst Syndrome or something.)

Up against a wall

Doing It for the Daddyland Dept.: Well, I was cruising along recently on a really dynamite column inspired by a breathtaking new book on the difference between benevolence and altruism, and their respective philosophical underpinnings, when I hit a wall. Yeah, I could write about how the basis of the former is a life-affirming respect for one's self and one's fellow human beings, and a positive outlook on the benefits created by human interaction, while the latter (as espoused by Bertrand Russell and others) comes from a very nihilistic view of human existence that calls for self-sacrifice as the only hope for

the momentary alleviation of suffering in a crappy world. And it occurred to me any such discussion would run up against protestations that life really does existentially suck.

This bummed me out, because I really, really wanted to comment on how disturbed I'd been by the ideology behind a kind of national youth corps being promoted by one developed nation's political and military leaders. Now, I believe freely doing gratuitous good deeds to help individuals and the community is a positive thing — so I do. But there was something about this particular campaign that struck me as being in the National Socialist vein, especially when one military figure questioned the morality of the young people who might disagree that they "owed" this "service" to their nation.

The politician who devised this program said its mission was "nothing less than to spark a renewed sense of obligation, a new sense of duty, a new season of service." Nothing about cooperation, nothing about voluntary benevolence — just "obligation" and debt, "the duty all of us owe to one another" he hoped these youth would pay by "devoting full years of your life to service."

"It's not enough to simply do your job and pay your taxes," said The Leader. "You have to serve in your community. I am redefining the meaning of citizenship." He praised one regional jurisdiction's plan to force youth into service by making it a condition of graduating from school. Mandatory volunteerism: now, there's an oxymoron. He said schoolchildren should be taught "the joy and the duty of serving" (*glücklichkeits*) at an age when it would best condition them, "when it will have the most enduring impact on the rest of their lives." Seeing thousands of students assembled for the mass rally, the General exclaimed, "It's great to have an army again!"

Philosophical question

Okay, so maybe I'm being overly sarcastic by seeing overtones of a Hitler Youth movement in the Presidential Bubba's "Summit on Service." (You must admit,

though, it's wicked satire.) Nonetheless, I think there's an important philosophical question about the difference between benevolence and altruism, one with a decided impact on how we live in our lesbian/gay community.

The difference? Benevolence means doing something because you want to, because it promotes values, because you benefit by the improvement it makes in the world, because you value the recipient enough as a human being to do something for her without pity. Altruism says this would be selfish and greedy. Altruism says it's immoral to value yourself and your life: it holds living for others as the highest value. This would make any kind of self-interest (even the rational self-interest that realizes the highest form of human interaction) is that which benefits both a moral evil to be ex-

punged by sacrificing one's self to others, whether they are worthy or not.

Naturally, under this system, there's unlimited potential for scamming people who want to be moral by guilt-tripping them into greater and greater self-sacrifice until they live as slaves. And unlimited career potential for those who want to set themselves up as the arbiters of who's greedy (for having a life) and who's good (for having no life but their "duty" to others).

We can act from a positive sense of self as people confident that, as rational human beings, we have at least some chance of improving life, even though we may find idiots in our path. Or, we can view life and other people as a threat calling for constant vigilance — therefore suspecting some "ism" in every human interaction and approaching them in an antagonistic manner. Political correctness takes this latter, degrading view of human nature.

I tell you, though, that lesbian and gay activists faced more daunting challenges in the early 1970s — yet we changed the world by believing rational interaction among human beings could change the world. So do these philosophical "quibbles" matter? Yes, they do. ▼

Lesbian monkey business

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

If dogs and pigs do not do it, why must human beings?" asked Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe, in 1995. He was talking about gay sex, of course. And with that biological argument as justification, he urged Zimbabweans to arrest people who were "behaving like homosexuals."

I don't think that what animals do or don't do has anything to tell us about the morality of human behavior. But since Mugabe thinks that it does, let's take a look at the sex behavior of an animal that lives in his part of the world, the bonobo or "pygmy chimpanzee."

Bonobos, whose DNA is 98.5% the same as ours, are famous for their freewheeling sexuality, which includes pretty much anything that has been outlawed by legislators, denounced by priests, or pathologized by doctors. But their most interesting sexual behavior is seen when two amorous females get together. Primatologists call it "genito-genital rubbing," or "G-G rubbing," for short. That crude-sounding phrase does little justice to the actual behavior, which is both sophisticated and sensual.

The two females embrace front to front and bring their swollen genital regions together. Then they rapidly slide their genitals to and fro sideways against each other: as female A swings her erect clitoris one way, female B swings hers the other way. Within a few seconds, the rhythmical sexual contact brings both animals to orgasm. After the sex act is complete, the two animals may stroll around for a while with their arms draped over each other's shoulders.

G-G rubbing is interesting because it's a behavior that has evolved specifically for "lesbian" sex; nothing like it is seen between male and female bonobos. In addition, according to primatologist Amy Parish, it serves an important social function that goes far beyond the mere satisfaction of sexual urges. Parish studied this function while a graduate student at the University of California, Davis.

According to Parish, "lesbian" sex is part of a co-operative strategy among female bonobos that helps overcome an evolutionary legacy of male dominance. Among most primates, such as the common chimpanzee, males are dominant over females: any male has priority over any female when it comes to food or other resources. This happens, not so much because the males are stronger or more aggressive, but because males bond very readily

with each other and thus gang up against females whenever disputes arise. Females, on the other hand, do not bond readily with each other. The ultimate reason for this difference in bonding has to do with kinship: the adult male chimpanzees in a troop are close relatives, while the adult females are unrelated, since they leave their birth families when they mature. And blood, as they say, is thicker than water.

The way bonobo females rectify this situation, according to Parish, is by substituting sexual bonds for kinship bonds. When a strange female joins a troop, she initiates a social relationship with one of the high-ranking females in the troop, a relationship that is cemented by frequent bouts of G-G rubbing. This allows females to establish life-long alliances with other females, and these alliances are called upon when males attempt to harass them. As a result, male bonobos actually tend to get excluded from the most desirable food items, resting spots, and so on.

All this, of course, is reminiscent of lesbian feminist thinking. Parish herself (who isn't lesbian) writes, "This ability found in our closest-living relatives lends hope that women's failure to bond may not be so inevitable after all." She doesn't say whether women should bond with other women through sexual relationships or by some other means.

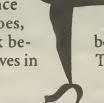
Some human cultures – especially those of pre-western Hawaii and Polynesia generally – have shared the bonobos' uninhibited delight in sex in all its many variations. As for sub-Saharan Africa, our knowledge of traditional sexual practices and attitudes is limited, but they were probably a lot

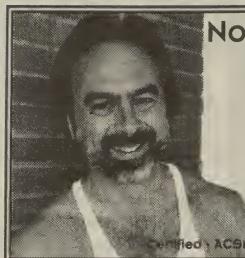
more liberal in the days before missionaries began preaching the virtues of heterosexuality, monogamy, and the "missionary position." According to Clellan Ford and Frank Beach's classic study, *Patterns of Sexual Behavior*, homosexual behavior was practiced and approved of in at least seven pre-colonial African cultures. Among the Azande people, for example, heterosexually married women had sex among themselves, sometimes using bananas or sweet potatoes tied around their waists as improvised "straps-on dildos."

So, in condemning gay sex as unnatural, it may be that President Mugabe was unwittingly promoting colonialist thinking over traditional African values – values that, nowadays, only the bonobos seem to live by. ▼

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain, City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nonas), *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996), and *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak/Masquerade Books). He is also a co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached care of this publication or at SLeVay@aol.com.

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Let me entertain you

by Heather Shirkey

Tap, tap, tap. Click. Scroll. Repeat ...

Feeling a bit dazed and lost in your search for the end of the rainbow, or even the symbolic rainbow itself, on the wild, wild web? Hold my hand, sweetie. Let's do it together! (I won't let you get tangled.) Geek Grrrl is ready to show you some variations on your blister-inducing chat room routine.

Cruise online through queer entertainment, adventure, resources for daily life, health ... and love! Oh, and if you feel that entering more than one URL in a single sitting is a bit more than you can stand, join me at <http://www.sirius.com/~hezaa/bar> and link to this week's featured sites. Just one stroke of your little finger will set you off on an explosive journey through cyberspace. Is it the final frontier? This is only the beginning, my love, and now it's time to let the Web entertain you!

Now stop looking so dazed and confused. It's time to dish! Soap dish, that is. With daytime television's lack of insight into the gossipy, lusty, vengeful needs of the queer community, interacti-

Geek Grrrl is ready to show you some variations on your blister-inducing chatroom routine.

ty has taken over, and queer drama has hit the Internet. *Gay Daze* (<http://www.gaydaze.com>) is the first fully queer "daytime drama" anywhere. Not only does the suspenseful plot entertain in traditional soap operatic style, the site adds the more personal element of interactivity, where you can communicate with characters and explore their deliciously tangled world at your pace.

The story is set in the trenches of steamy LA, where six friends – a doctor, a dancer, a lover, a loser, a father, and a natural woman –

affect, meddle, intertwine, and occasionally screw up each other's lives. The characters are queer and attractive, yet real. Bios are provided so it's easy to pick your favorite darling early on. Also, the site provides a section that allows you to gaze back over previous segments, so it's easy to get entangled in the never-ending threads of sex, murder, fear, lust and high drama!

Helen Mendoza, Producer and Creative Director of the show, says, "Our goal is to make this site innovative and entertaining. We've got a sophisticated audience, and they're looking for fun and inventive programming on the web."

Gay Daze is a splendor to behold: rich with color yet relatively decent loading time, even on your antique 14.4 modem! (Don't worry, I won't hold it against you.) It is one of the rare sites that makes reasonable use of those annoying frames as an indexing menu. Also, as a special *Gay Daze* get-involved incentive, there are extra areas where you can contribute a story of your own, send a *Gay Daze* electronic postcard to an

online friend, and link off to some other great queer sites.

Xena-philia

High drama doesn't only exist on the Web in soap operatic form. It continues in a more primitive and raw setting with *Xena: Warrior Princess*. Fan sites abound for the latest queer-identified female action hero. One of the most popular and thorough Xena resource sites is "Tom's Xena Page" (<http://xenafan.com>), hosting a wealth of Xena info, trivia, and gorgeous gifs! (The site also hosts a bonus link to

another new TV icon on the scene: *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.)

What about the subtext and subplots, though? Where does one delve into the real Xena identity story? For that, my darlings, we need to go to <http://members.aol.com/xenastraya/subtext/subtext.htm>, home of "Xena: Princess warrior home of Subtext." This site revolves around the special and intimate relationship that exists between Xena and her cohort sidekick, Gabrielle.

To make it even more poignant, only episodes with subtext regarding their love are listed. Let's get to the good stuff!

The site is a quick load, for your surfing pleasure! Be prepared to read as the site revolves around textual elements. Even so, Xena conquers the Web with all the poise and grace that commands television sets everywhere.

If you want to know what's popping on the big screen, sit back and enjoy the show at www.popcornq.com. Hosted by Planet Out (arguably one of the Web's most extensive and interesting queer resources and culture sites), PopcornQ makes the silver screen shine with a storehouse of queer movie info: past, present, and beyond. Use their search engine to locate one of the cult classics, check out queer movie news, visit favorite picks, or get info on the Film Festival. Even international resources are included, for those of you who are a bit more cultured than the rest.

Be warned, though, if you don't like a long wait time before the show, you may be a bit pained if trying to load it on anything less than an ISDN line. The site makes extensive use of frames, and the pages are graphics-intensive. However, the info is worth the wait, and the retro graphics bring back pangs of our favorite '40s film idols, for all of you die-hard Rita and Marlene lovers out there. Definitely a web entertainer! ▼

Shanti

◀ page 1

union symbolizes the immense contribution that Shanti volunteers, past and present, have made to people with HIV and their loved ones since the beginning of the epidemic," Garfield said in a statement distributed by the 23-year-old agency.

Since its inception in 1974 as a volunteer services group for people with terminal illnesses, the agency has trained an estimated 8,000 volunteers, according to

Laura Giacomini, Shanti's development and marketing manager

"We're hearing from old volunteers, and people are calling and checking in. It's been kind of fun and is picking up as we are getting closer to the day," she said.

The agency began exclusively caring for people with AIDS in the early 1980s and estimates that Shanti volunteers have provided more than two million hours of care to people with AIDS and HIV since its inception. Shanti also says that its services have assisted nearly 80 percent of the people with AIDS in San Francisco.

The event is sponsored by Interior Architects, SMART Tele-marketing, and UC Lending, and will benefit Shanti's Volunteer Services Program.

Shanti provides a variety of services to people living with HIV disease, including emotional-based peer support, hospital-based counseling, practical assistance, case management and recreation, and transportation services. ▼

Tickets for the event can be purchased by calling Giacomini at 864-2273, extension 4741.

OrchidMania

◀ page 3

formation and referral.

• Mendocino County AIDS Volunteer Network - The agency offers a wide variety of basic non-medical services to residents in this rural area, which has the highest per-capita AIDS infection rate in the state.

• Indraadevi Association - The organization provides HIV/AIDS education and prevention outreach through workshop-based training courses in the Kandal Province in Cambodia.

• MITRA Indonesia - The organization is a non-government group working in the area of AIDS prevention and control. Services include a hotline, anonymous testing, pre- and post-test counseling, public awareness campaigns, and advocacy. It serves Jakarta and other areas in Indonesia.

• Seattle Treatment Education Project (STEP) - The agency provides counseling and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS and offers information to the public and the medical community about treatment options and alternative therapies. The

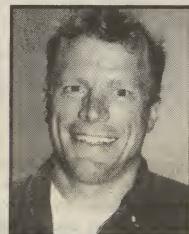
group operates a telephone hotline and computer bulletin board.

• Support the Children Foundation - The organization has set up four homes for orphaned or abandoned children infected with HIV and serves the suburbs of Chiang Mai in Thailand. ▼

OrchidMania takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at San Francisco's Japan Center, Post and Buchanan streets. Parking is available. For more information, call (415) 267-4814.

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"As a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Development and now as a Redevelopment Commissioner, I've seen the direct link between economic development, increased tax revenues and the City's ability to provide vital public services. As a person living with AIDS, I'm especially excited that the stadium proposal includes money set aside for housing for people with AIDS. I urge you to vote YES on Props D and F."

MARK DUNLOP
Redevelopment Commissioner



"The 49ers aren't just any football team - they're San Francisco's football team. Gay and lesbian football fans have cheered them as they've won their Super Bowls and as they became as the first NFL team to sponsor an "Until There's a Cure Day." They represent the special spirit of our City. Join me in voting YES on Props D & F."

WAYNE FRIDAY
B.A.R. Columnist and former Police Commissioner



"The 49ers have shown leadership on our community's important health issues — contributing thousands of dollars to AIDS and women's health programs and being the first NFL team to host an "Until There's a Cure Day." The stadium proposal is consistent with their commitment to our community — it requires that its revenues go toward creating jobs and affordable housing, and improving our libraries, public safety, Muni and health services. Join me in voting YES on Props D & F."

TIM WOLFRED, First Executive Director, San Francisco AIDS Foundation and former President, San Francisco Community College Board



"For years the 49ers have been involved in our communities through AIDS funding and other innovative philanthropy. Their commitment to help revitalize Bayview/Hunters Point and guarantee jobs for welfare recipients again demonstrates the team's unique commitment to corporate responsibility. Vote YES on D and F."

PAT NORMAN
President, San Francisco Police Commission



"The new law requiring city contractors to provide equal benefits to domestic partners has faced some tough battles. On the other hand, the 49ers didn't miss a beat in initiating their own domestic partners plan. As we move forward in implementing the law, the 49ers will stand as an example of outstanding corporate citizenship not only in San Francisco, but across the nation. Now I'm proud to stand with them in support of Propositions D and F."

MARTHA KNUTZEN
President, San Francisco Human Rights Commission



"Regardless of whether you care about football, the 49ers stadium and retail/entertainment complex proposal is a good deal for San Francisco. It's an imaginative plan that addresses two of our most urgent needs — creating thousands of permanent jobs and developing new, local sources of revenue to counteract cuts in state and federal funding for local services. Reject cynicism and pessimism. Vote YES on Propositions D and F."

CRAIG OZIEDZIC
Member, Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Development

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Special GLAAD Alert: Urgent action needed

Ellen advertisers need your input!

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

Now that Ellen Morgan has come out, the advertisers who chose to stand with ABC and Touchstone and sponsor the groundbreaking episode need to hear from those of us who appreciate their support. Already, anti-gay radical religious groups such as the American Family Association are targeting the companies for attack. The critically acclaimed episode received a higher audience share than any other ABC show for the entire season, with a 23/4 Neilson rating and 35 percent of Americans watching.

National advertisers included Bayer Corporation (One-A-Day vitamins and Femstat 3), Burlington Coat Factory, News America Publishing, Inc. (FOX), Slimfast Foods Company, Sony Corporation of America (Columbia and Tri-Star), Time Warner, Inc. (HBO, New Line Cinema, and Warner Bros.), Unilever United States, Inc., (Calvin Klein), Universal Pictures, Viacom International, Inc. (Paramount), Volkswagen of America, and Warner-Lambert (Listerine, Neosporin, Sudafed, Trident gum).

One exceptional local advertiser who stood apart from its more anti-gay parent company was Armory Garage, the Chrysler dealer in Albany, New York.

Local and regional advertisers can be found on the GLAAD Web site (www.glaad.org), and everyone is encouraged to e-mail us at glaad@glaad.org or call at 1-800-GAY-MEDIA with information on areas for which we have not yet provided complete listings.

Please thank each advertiser who chose to advertise both nationally and in your local markets for recognizing that lesbians and gay men should not be cropped out of television's American family portrait. Also, remember to tell Wendy's, Chrysler, General Motors, Johnson & Johnson, and J.C.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Sharon vs. 'the Christians'

by Bob Roehr

Sharon Boyd is fighting to see her kids in what has become a long and nasty legal struggle. She is transsexual and by all accounts was a good father. But the case, which is ever so slowly winding its way through Missouri courts, is pushing hot buttons of sexual identity, religion, family, and politics. It has become a cause célèbre for conservative Christian activists. Now, for the first time in an extended interview, Sharon is telling her side of the story.

Tom and Karen met in Bible study class in western Missouri (the names are pseudonyms first used in an article in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*). He was a solid six-footer with dark hair and big brown eyes, an honors graduate of the Air Force Academy whose finger could launch atomic warheads onto another continent. They married and had two sons, moving to Germany, then the Washington, DC suburbs over the course of Tom's 12-year military career.

But Tom had a secret from childhood, a secret that society and his evangelical Christian upbringing taught him to deny. He knew that "there was something wrong with the way I looked, I just wasn't comfortable with it." Even before puberty he would sneak into his mother's room and don her lingerie, or later purchase and wear items of women's clothing in "binge/purge cycles," struggling with his own "demons" of cross-dressing.

"By 1991 or so, I just couldn't take any more. If it was a cross to bear, it was crucifying me, it was grinding me into dust." When Karen and the boys went to visit family in Missouri, Tom stayed in Maryland and went to a therapist. "I think he gave me the freedom to admit, and the freedom to deal with the admission" that I might be a transsexual.

He had shared his secret with Karen even before their marriage, and subsequent discussions over the years brought further stress to it. So he withdrew, keeping the issue to himself. But when Karen returned, he told her of his decision to continue exploring the likelihood that he was transsexual. The marriage deteriorated quickly, and within weeks Tom was sleeping in a separate room in the basement.

At Karen's insistence he "went to umpteen zillion different Christian counselors, who were quacks for the most part. Who had the commonality of belief that it was just fundamentally immoral to be a transsexual or be a person with transsexual feelings." Some said, "We don't have any evidence of it, but it must have been because of something in your past, some 'Chester the Molester'." Others blamed a weak father, dominant mother, or the Devil.

"All of this smacked to me of the seven blind men who come up on the elephant and say, an elephant is very like a snake, or a wall, or a hose, or a tree. They didn't know what they were talking about. And they wanted me to trust my life, my well-being to this kind of insanity? Those kind of treatments are very focused on, we've got to find out who to blame, and once we find out who to blame, we'll tell you how to take the silver bullet and slay the beast."

They separated in August 1992. Karen entered a "no fault" divorce in Maryland before returning to Missouri, but withdrew

it before it had run its one-year course. She later re-filed in Missouri. Tom began the transition to Sharon, a process made complete with surgery in November 1994.

The children initially were told only that their father was having "adult problems." About six months after the separation, the oldest became depressed and suicidal. The first-grader was placed on Prozac.

Loving and caring father

The divorce decree, finalized in July 1995 by Judge William T. Lohmar Jr., "clearly established" Sharon as "a loving and caring father," and that it was in the best interest of the children to allow joint custody and visitation for the boys, now seven and ten years old.

Karen enlisted the help of the Alliance Defense League, a legal off-shoot of Focus on the Family led by Colorado Springs religious conservative James Dobson. They assisted with the case, and when the initial custody decision came down, the religious right launched a publicity campaign against the decision and the judge



Sharon Boyd: "They don't think we should have our kids."

the court using extra-judicial pressure."

The Right fired their public broadsides. "I am appalled that the court would allow [Sharon] to maintain all the rights of fatherhood while abandoning the biological and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood," said Rev. John M. Cochran in the *Post-Dispatch*.

Judge Lohmar was defeated in his bid for re-election. An appeals court reversed the custody decision and severely limited visitation. Parallel legislation was introduced at the capital.

But Sharon hasn't seen or talked with her children in the more than four years since their separation. "I agreed voluntarily not to have physical contact" with the boys for the first year. "I thought I was doing a good thing, but in retrospect, it was a big mistake, I was being taken advantage of."

Her in-laws loved her as the wonderful husband Tom, "but when I changed my name to Sharon and I wore dresses, I became the anti-Christ. I don't think that is reasonable... My 'crime' is

page 26 ►

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Internationalizing the Gay Games

An interview with Gilles Pettigrew

by Jim Provenzano

Gay Games V promises to be an enormous event, both athletically and culturally. As up to 13,000 participants prepare to journey to Amsterdam in the first week of August 1998, many plans are underway, from athletic events to choir festivals.

However, recent events in the development of Gay Games V have raised more than a few concerns about the organization and potential problems associated with coordinating such a huge event in a community with a record of enormous failure in organizing.

Pettigrew, a French-Canadian resident of Montreal, has been a member of Montreal's gay swim club, A Contre Courant (Against the Current), since 1992. He became involved with the swim team, as well as Equip Montreal, the organizing body for all of that city's teams and individuals attending Gay Games. Equip Montreal also helps organize activities for athletes during the off years between games. In 1994, Pettigrew was elected co-president of the Federation of Gay Games at the annual meeting, then in Atlanta. Since then, he has been busy helping to organize the next Gay Games, as well as future ones in 2002 and beyond. While hoping to continue the ideals of Gay Games' patron saint, Tom Wad-

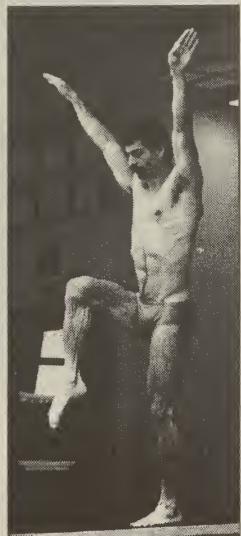
dell, he is also pragmatic and realistic about the realities of coordinating a worldwide event run by gay people.

Jim Provenzano: How is Montreal getting ready for Gay Games?

Gilles Pettigrew: Well, it's not like San Francisco, where you have so many gay people. The militant aspect of gay people has not been as strong as in San Francisco. For instance, the Gay Pride flag was virtually unknown before 1994. What goes on, if you ask most people what Stonewall is, they'll say, it's a wall made of stone. They don't know what it is. The American values don't transpire. It's a different culture. They know more what's going on in Paris than in New York.

Can you discuss how the Federation is trying to assist in some of the language and cultural problems that exist now in organizing Gay Games V? The people who originally organized Gay Games are Americans, but it has been said that we don't want to force our cultural values and systems on the hosts, yet help them overcome what are obviously some problems.

You see, the Federation voted in 1993 to go to Amsterdam with a strong desire of opening Gay Games to the world. Up until now, they were always on the North American continent. It was time to open up to another market, to another group of gay people. The way things are done in North America are not necessarily the way they are done in Amsterdam, so there's a totally different mentality in a certain aspect, and of course there's also the language barrier, which has to be taken into consideration. The way people act, think, conduct business, all that comes into account,



Eren Ramirez

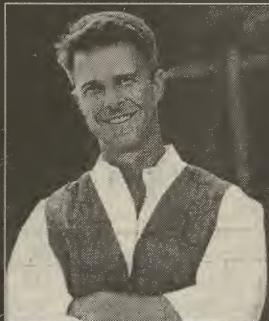
plus the fact that the Dutch knew of Gay Games and know the principals.

There are still fundamental principles that have to be observed, no matter where we go: the principles of participation, personal best and inclusion, meaning that you're not there to win a gold medal, but to participate, and by participating you are already a winner. You do the best you can. Inclusion means no discrimination whatsoever. As long as that is understood by the whole city, and observed in the way they conduct their business, basically the Federation will oversee the details, but in essence the Gay Games' spirit is maintained.

What about some critiques that in making a cultural shift, replacing some sports, making some things that most people wouldn't even consider a sport — like chess, or

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS



San Francisco Track & Field members cross the finish line 1-2-3 at Gay Games '94.

bridge - is an attempt to be more inclusive to disabled or less physically active people?

Whether or not we like it, 20 years from now, we will not be running it, so we may as well face the fact that the baby boomer generation is not going to always have pecs that go on for days and washboard stomachs, and we're not always going to spend three hours in front of the mirror grooming ourselves.

Was that the point of it, that seniors or the disabled could be involved?

People who are not necessarily sportive, because remember, Gay Games is also about the cultural festival. There's not just the

was also true a month before, they didn't know where to hold opening ceremonies, but when we come to the event, everything runs smoothly.

What I'm saying is, fill out your registration, with your pre-registration fee. I am almost convinced that in the end everything will come through with flying colors. I cannot guarantee that, but the point here is that I have full confidence in their possibilities, and the possibilities that those who want to go will be able to participate, provided you pre-register or register on time and don't wait until the last minute.

Well, with 13,000 slots, it seems that won't be a problem. But the shifts that have been made for these Games have irritated people

hancing drugs will not be acceptable.

What about the aspect of hashish and cannabis being legal?

Well, I don't know if it's a good idea to smoke a joint before a 10K marathon! You're gonna be flying high, whether or not this is considered helping in performance.

But say somebody is doing a drug for medication, like testosterone -

We're testing for the usual drugs that are usually banned in any competition, so pot is one of the drugs that are forbidden in sports events. We're not talking about legal; it's the spirit of the competition.

"I don't know if it's a good idea to smoke a joint before a 10K marathon! You're gonna be flying high, whether or not this is helpful in performance."

sports. The cultural component is very important. Those more social events are there to allow more participants to come to Gay Games. I think that falls right into the spirit, as far as inclusion and participation. We're opening up to new disciplines and a new segment of the population.

Of course, it opens it up for people who wouldn't do the marathon or swim, but what about the other aspect, where there have been imposed limitations on the amount of people in sports, where they've lowered the number of admissions, or where seniors age 50 and up are all being dumped into one category in swimming, which would eliminate them from first round competition, thereby excluding them?

No matter what you're going to do, you'll always be criticized for something. The thing here is to try to see where you can benefit the most people. You might restrict it in that place, but you might open it up to someone else. When everything is looked at, it will even up. Why don't we just wait and see what will happen? There were a lot of things before 1994 in New York that were going around, a lot of rumors. Look, three weeks before the opening of Gay Games in New York, they still didn't have a contract for the swimming pool where 1,000 people were going to swim. I think it

who traditionally think of it as an athletic event. Amsterdam was contracted to do this, but they have made changes, which are very different.

Things will come out all right. There is still a question that people must make up their minds now and go for it now, and not wait until January '98 to register, because it's going to be too late.

But people have to make their plans on faith on what may be the most glorious day of their lives, and things aren't secured, buildings aren't secured, arrangements haven't been secured.

I'm convinced that if they do pre-register now and take care of their business, chances are that everything will be okay.

Can you mention the health concerns?

There is no HIV barrier to get into Holland. Some applications for visas for some countries will be necessary.

And the relationship between people on medications and HIV?

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Courtesy of Pacific Friends

Pacific Friends President David Chan (right) accepts an SF proclamation from Supe Tom Ammiano declaring May 4, 1997 Pacific Friends Day in the city. The honor marked the club's 13th anniversary. Over 125 people celebrated the PF's longevity at a dinner where various members were recognized for their outstanding service both to the club and the community. Ammiano was the guest speaker, and the newly elected president spoke of the club's goals for the upcoming year.

San Mateo County appointee can finally vote on HIV council

Attendance concerns expressed

by Cynthia Laird

After several months of sitting at the table but being unable to vote, John Conley was officially named to the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council last Monday, April 28. Because there was no quorum, however, Conley has not been able to vote; no action can be taken by the council without a quorum.

At the council's January 13 meeting, San Mateo County representative Mary Jane Wood introduced Conley as the county's designated replacement for Tom Zickgraf, who resigned. San Mateo joins San Francisco and Marin counties in the Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA). The council prioritizes and allocates federal Ryan White CARE funds for HIV/AIDS services in the EMA.

Even though San Mateo County's money is distributed as a lump sum by the council, and even though San Mateo County officials are responsible for designating its representatives, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown ultimately appoints all of the members.

Norm Nickens, assistant director of the Department of Public Health AIDS Office, said Conley's appointment was delayed because of the council's restructuring that took place starting in February. Nickens said the council decided that all prospective members, even those from other counties, would have to go through the membership committee. In the future, the process should be expedited, he added.

Conley, who is the director of San Mateo County's AIDS Program, seemed happy to finally have an official voice on the 32-member body. He has attended virtually every meeting since January as an observer, waiting for the bureaucracy to spit out his official letter.



Cynthia Laird

S.M.'s program

Conley told the B.A.R. that he's glad to be official, and also cited some good news regarding San Mateo County's AIDS program: the Palo Alto law firm of Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich, and Rosati recently contributed \$25,000 to support medical and social services for people living with HIV/AIDS in East Palo Alto.

The city, much less affluent than its more prestigious counterpart, was hit hard by the epidemic, with 128 of its 25,000 residents diagnosed with AIDS during the last 15 years. It has the highest HIV infection rate in the county, Conley said.

The law firm's donation will help improve access to dental services and provide vouchers, redeemable at local stores and service providers, for food, clothing, child care, and other necessities, Conley said.

The San Mateo County AIDS Program received high praise after a review by the San Francisco AIDS Office as part of the monitoring process under the Title I Ryan White CARE Act. The review focused on the medical program, social services case management, benefits counseling, and mental health services.

Reviewers praised the program for its coordination and the re-

port stated that staff work together to maximize resources. There are an estimated 700 people living with HIV/AIDS in the county.

Conley said that staff members Wood and Jonathan Mesinger were instrumental in the program's effective operation that resulted in the favorable review.

Council no-shows

The poor attendance at last week's council meeting was of concern to the 16 members who did show up. "I'd like to know how many didn't call in," member Steve Lew said, referring to the council's policy of notifying staff about absences. It was reported that two individuals made those calls, leaving about 14 members with either no excuse or neglecting to call in their absences.

"There's very little business we can do," member Will Carter said. "If we can't do this as a council, then I'm sorry, there are some people who should not be on this council."

Diane Jones said she felt the recent membership recruitment was "relatively passive," and suggested the council do more outreach to recruit members, particularly those who are not affiliated with service providers. There's also a need for HIV-positive Native Americans, women, youth, and other groups on the council.

A motion to adjourn the meeting due to lack of a quorum failed to get the needed two-thirds vote, so the council sat around and debated membership and other issues for about an hour before calling it quits. ▀

The planning council's next meeting will be Monday, May 19 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the sixth floor conference room of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 10 United Nations Plaza, at Market and Seventh streets. For information on the council's various committee meetings, call the AIDS Office at (415) 554-9000.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gordon set to apply service, principles as county supervisor

by Marv. Shaw

Gratefully citing a working combination of supporters for his April 8 victory in the San Mateo County election, to fill the seat vacated by Ted Lempert after his November election to the California Assembly, Rich Gordon spelled out to the *Bay Area Reporter* the factors which brought him to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. He also spelled out some of the matters that will get his attention as he begins his term.

"The key to my election is certainly the hard work of the volunteers, many of them from the gay community, from the beginning of the campaign," the new supervisor began, in a recent interview in Redwood City. "There was grass roots support from a diverse group that pledged for me. Union members, environmentalists such as the Sierra Club, and the many people who knew of my work in the social services all helped. Binding and managing this diverse group was the excellent job done by Staton, Shafer, and Hughes, the campaign consultants."

Coming in close to the originally budgeted figure, the Gordon campaign got the bulk of its finances from mailed-in money, though contributions from the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee and the Victory Fund also helped.

On the money issue, there was an allusion to Gordon's gayness by a statement on a late flyer from an opponent that he was aided by "special interests in San Francisco," a reference Gordon feels was not even perceived by most voters.

Coalescence ahead

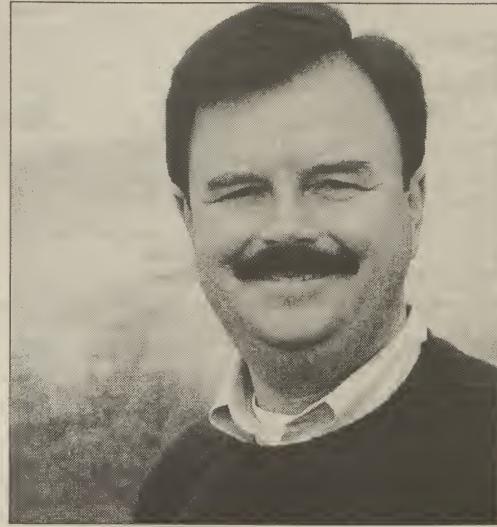
Law prohibits anyone from serving in two elected jobs at the same time, so Gordon had to resign from the San Mateo County Board of Education, a position in which he fostered such programs as providing continued education for youths confined for law violations. Nevertheless, he will stay close to the juvenile court system and be an active partner in the development of educational programs.

In December of this year, Gordon will become the president of the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce. "I expect no impact on my job as a supervisor," Gordon stated emphatically. "And the Chamber has indicated that is fine with them. I expect to be very happy to do both."

Gordon told the *B.A.R.* he feels confident he will be accepted by the veteran board members. "Though the voter turnout was very low, my plurality was strong enough to gain their respect. I won convincingly," he said.

On further work with the other supervisors, Gordon sees variation but cooperation. "We have mutual concerns, and we will find different ways to coalesce," he said.

Two matters Gordon included in his campaign pronouncements, the county AIDS program, and an effort to bring psychological help



Supe Rich Gordon: "I will make every effort to make government work."

to couples, both gay and straight, in domestic violence situations, Gordon will have a new perspective on a supervisor.

As a supervisor, Gordon said he will be a watchful observer of the use of funds in the county AIDS program, urging a larger county allotment for the overall program and supporting the current county effort to establish needed satellite clinics, such as the one recently set up on Willow Road in Menlo Park. Maintaining quality care throughout will be one of his main concerns, he averred. But he also registered confidence in the AIDS program administration.

On the aid for reducing domestic violence — a matter Gordon frequently addressed while campaigning — he said he will work closely with the recently formed Domestic Violence Task Force.

Imminent re-election

Because Gordon will complete the term begun by Lempert, he now must run for re-election in June 1998. Asked how he will prepare for that contest, Gordon replied, "I will do a good job right now and consistently throughout the coming year. It is apparent that the American electorate is often disillusioned with government performance, so I will make every effort to make government work."

To that end, Gordon has taken on two assistants, San Francisco gay men Joe Caruso and Rob Boleyn. Caruso comes from a position with Open Hand and Wells Fargo Bank, and Boleyn from the United Way.

Near the end of the last campaign, Rick Silver, the clerk for the board of supervisors, drew up a mailer for another candidate on which some San Mateo County political women — such as Representative Anna Eshoo and Jackie Speier — seemed to support the candidacy of Denise de Ville. The women cited have denied the allegation.

Asked how he will relate to Sil-

ver now that he is elected, Gordon said, "I have simply pointed out that the clerk job is specifically non-political and that I expect Silver to perform it in that way." ▼

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Judicial order allows doctors to recommend medical marijuana

by Liz Highleyman

A U.S. district court judge in San Francisco issued a ruling Wednesday, April 30 that allows doctor to discuss the use of medical marijuana with their patients, and to recommend such use. Marijuana is recommended most often for nausea, appetite loss and wasting, glaucoma, muscle spasms, and pain.

Judge Fern Smith determined that existing "fickle" federal policies violate the constitutional free speech rights of doctors and patients by limiting what they are allowed to discuss. She stated that the federal government's "fear that frank dialogue between physicians and patients about medical marijuana might foster drug use" does not justify such restrictions. Smith's ruling does not permit doctors to take steps to help patients actually obtain marijuana.

Judge Smith's ruling extends a temporary injunction she issued on April 11 against prosecution of doctors who discuss medical marijuana with their patients. That injunction was the result of a class-action lawsuit filed against the Department of Justice in January by a group of California physicians led by Bay Area AIDS specialist

Dr. Marcus Conant. The April 30 ruling was narrower than the temporary injunction, limiting the conditions for which marijuana may be recommended to HIV/AIDS, cancer, glaucoma, seizures or muscle spasms associated with a chronic, debilitating condition. The ruling came after the parties in the lawsuit were unable to reach a settlement on April 29.

In the wake of the passage of Proposition 215 in California and Proposition 200 in Arizona last fall, "drug czar" General Barry McCaffrey threatened to prosecute doctors who recommend or prescribe medical mari-

juana to their patients. Sanctions against physicians could include loss of federally-granted authority to prescribe scheduled drugs and denial of Medicaid payments. The following month, McCaffrey conceded that physicians could "discuss" medical marijuana with their patients as long as they did not help patients obtain the drug. Many doctors found the distinctions between "discussing," "recommending," and "helping obtain" too unclear for comfort. Smith agreed, stating that "ambiguous and conflicting" government policies forced physicians to "suppress speech."

Smith's most recent ruling – set forth in a 43-page document – will remain in effect until the final settlement of the lawsuit, which may take several months. The federal government may decide to appeal the ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court.

The plaintiffs' lead attorney Graham Boyd called the ruling a "tremendous victory." Vic Hernandez, Executive Director of Cannabis Helping Alleviate Medical Problems (C.H.A.M.P.), a San Francisco cannabis buyer's club, agreed, stating that the government's threat of sanctions "puts doctors' and patients' needs at odds." ▼

Clients of cannabis buyers' clubs are typically required to provide a letter or form stating that their healthcare provider has recommended marijuana for medicinal use. C.H.A.M.P. also calls providers to verify that letters are authentic. Smith stated that she would "draw the line at criminal conduct." Signing a letter or form or providing telephone verification goes beyond merely recommending marijuana, and may be considered to be helping a patient to obtain the drug. It is not yet clear what effect the ruling will have on local buyers' clubs and similar operations. ▼

A WORLD away: retreat for HIV+ women next week

by Cynthia Laird

Next week, over 75 HIV-positive women are expected to gather away from the frantic pace of life in Bay Area cities for a chance to spend time in tranquil Healdsburg, Sonoma County. A three-day retreat for HIV-positive women is sponsored by WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases).

Sandi Luna, coordinator of the retreat, said the May 12-14 event

is WORLD's tenth. There is still time to register; the event is not free, and there is a waiting list for scholarships, Luna said.

The retreat offers a variety of activities, from art projects and dance classes to educational workshops about living with HIV/AIDS. Luna said one of the most important things about the event is that women realize they are not alone, and they have an opportunity to connect with other women.

Support groups are another component of the retreat and are geared toward mothers, working

women, lesbians, women in recovery, and women of color. Personal concerns such as safer sex, relationships, and disclosure are also addressed, along with grief and spirituality.

By providing a safe environment for the women, the WORLD retreat helps them break out of fear and isolation so they can re-

ceive support from others who truly understand how it feels to have HIV/AIDS, said Luna. ▼

Registration costs \$110 per person. To be placed on the scholarship waiting list or for more information, call (510) 658-6930.

Health, healing fair for women tomorrow

by Cynthia Laird

Women are invited to join with others in spiritual and physical health on Friday, May 9, when the Women's Needs Center holds its fourth health and healing fair for women in San Francisco. The event is free, and child care will be provided, organizers said.

"Mind, Body, and Soul: In Search of Peace" is the name of the health fair. The Women's Needs Center is a free gynecological clinic that's part of Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics, Inc.

Among the offerings will be free, anonymous HIV testing, workshops, speakers, entertainment, massage, Tarot card reading, food, and laughter.

Last year, about 200 women attended the daylong event. ▼

The health and healing fair takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, between Valencia and Guerrero. For more information, call (415) 487-5612.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Openly gay priest takes helm at St. Peter's Episcopal Church

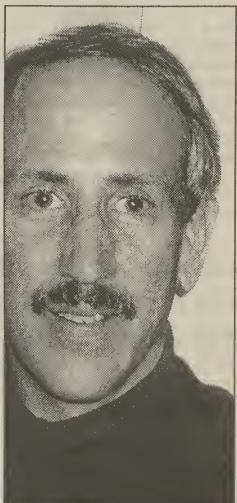
by Cynthia Laird

The Reverend David Bruce Rickey has just moved to San Francisco from New York to become the new priest at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in the Richmond District. He presided over his first church service Sunday, April 27.

Rickey, 50, who is openly gay, brings a quarter century of experience as a priest and psychologist to his new position. He has served at both inner-city and rural churches in New York and New Jersey.

As a psychotherapist, Rickey believes the church can play an important role in healing. In 1993, he co-founded the HIV/AIDS Chaplaincy of Dutchess County in New York. He served for three years as coordinator of the program that provides continuing pastoral care for people living with HIV/AIDS. In 1994, he co-founded the Alternatives Health Center of Tivoli, New York and served as a team member.

"I developed, with other holistic practitioners, a team approach to healing," Rickey said of the Al-



Rev. David Bruce Rickey

ternatives Health Center. "I specialized in spiritual counseling, working with the spiritual dimensions of illness and healing."

Once he gets settled at St. Peter's, one of the things Rickey hopes to do is start a group focusing on gay spirituality.

Rickey knows his way around the Bay Area. He attended the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley in the early 1970s and served as an assistant chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco.

After a year in Berkeley, Rickey earned a masters degree in divinity from the Union Theological Seminary in New York. He received a certificate in pastoral counseling at Blanton-Peale Graduate Institute, also in New York.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church has served the Outer Richmond since 1913. Founded in 1867, it stood in North Beach until the 1906 earthquake and fire. The congregation worshipped in Cow Hollow for several years before moving to its current location, 420 29th Avenue, near Clement Street. ▼

For more information, call the church office at (415) 751-4942.

Poll: Californians split on gay rights

United Press International

A new Field Poll shows Californians are sharply divided on whether gay relations are wrong, and whether the push for gay rights is being pressed too fast.

But the poll, released Tuesday, May 6 by the non-partisan Field Institute in San Francisco, also indicates most Californians support laws that give family and child custody rights to gay couples and allow gays to serve openly in the military.

However, 56 percent of respon-

dents said they disapprove of same-sex marriages, and 49 percent said they would favor a law barring recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states.

The telephone poll was conducted February 11-17 among a representative sample of 1,045 California adults, with a sampling error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.

Almost half of those polled said gay relations are wrong, while 47 percent said they hold the opposite view. When describing the pace of the gay rights movement, 41 percent said it was too fast,

while 39 percent said it was just about right.

Legal recognition of family rights for domestic partners was favored by 67 percent of those polled, and 59 percent favored the extension of financial aid status to domestic partners.

The most significant shift in opinion over the last two decades occurred when respondents were asked about granting child custody to homosexual parents. An overwhelming seven in ten said they were in support if the parents were found legally fit to care for the child in all other ways. ▼

Study: Cal schools give out wrong sex info

United Press International

A new study says at least 28 California schools are teaching an illegal abstinence-only sex education program that denies students information about contraception and reducing the risks of HIV infection.

The study, released Tuesday, April 29 by the Applied Research Center in Oakland, says such abstinence-only programs give inac-

curate information about AIDS and are strongly biased against minorities, homosexuals, and gender roles.

Spokesperson Doug Stone responded that the state Department of Education never approved the "Sex Respect" study, which stresses only abstinence rather than the preferred abstinence-based approach that also provides other information.

While he agrees with some of the study's criticisms, Stone says it was pulled from the only state li-

brary that offered it as a training resource.

He says state law doesn't authorize the Department of Education to monitor materials used by California's more than 8,000 public schools, and districts are free to choose programs as they see fit.

Stone says the department can't verify the study's claim that 34 percent of the state's public school districts have been pressured to modify their sex education programs by religious groups. ▼

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AIDS Alliance closes Contra Costa offices

400 clients affected, lack of funds to blame

by Cynthia Laird

Saying they simply ran out of funds, the board of directors of the AIDS Alliance closed the agency's Contra Costa County offices last Wednesday, April 30, affecting about 400 people living with HIV/AIDS in the East Bay. The county's AIDS Program has stepped in, however, and announced that case management services are continuing uninterrupted.

The AIDS Alliance had been a merger between the AIDS Project of Contra Costa County and the Center for AIDS Services in Alameda County. Liz Grossman,

AIDS Alliance board chair, said that the two entities maintained separate funding sources. The merger agreement took place over year ago.

The Center for AIDS Services in Oakland is not affected by the Contra Costa closure and continues to operate as a program of the AIDS Alliance.

Rusty Keilch, director of the Health Services Division's AIDS Program in Contra Costa County, said officials moved swiftly to put an interim plan in place for the clients. Former AIDS Alliance case managers are now temporary county employees. They're providing the same services to their clients.

"There is no disruption in case management," Keilch said.

She explained the AIDS Alliance in Contra Costa received \$82,500 in federal Ryan White CARE funds for the 1997-98 cycle. Since the offices closed after two months, the remaining unexpended CARE money will be used to fund the interim workers until a request for proposal (RFP) can be developed later this year.

"Case management services for 400 clients are all being picked up by the county. Ultimately, the county will put out for a RFP, and it is our belief

No mismanagement

Both Grossman and Keilch said that fiscal mismanagement was not a factor in the closure of the Contra Costa offices. Rather, Grossman said the agency was not able to obtain sufficient funding from private sources and could not rely solely on government contracts. The Contra Costa AIDS Alliance program's annual budget was \$600,000, with approximately 50 to 60 percent of that coming from government sources, she said.

"There's not a hint of that," Grossman said, referring to mismanagement. "It was simply a

lated in the future, she said.

Keilch said other Contra Costa agencies, such as the Genard AIDS Foundation, have offered to help out. Dr. William Callahan, executive director at Genard, said the former AIDS Alliance volunteers are determining what direction to take, and the best way to locate their volunteer care.

"My offer is out there," Callahan said of the foundation's interest in possibly resuming the buddy program. "The buddy program bears a striking resemblance to our 'Pals at Home' program."

Milliken said he has benefited

"It was simply a hard, painful decision. Our operating expenses in Contra Costa were \$50,000 a month, and there was a shortfall of \$20,000 to \$30,000 a month." —Liz Grossman, board chair

there will be a new agency that will pick up case management by September," Grossman told the B.A.R.

Ted Milliken, an openly gay man living with AIDS who had been an AIDS Alliance client, said he was surprised by the announcement; he received a letter April 30.

Grossman said that staff notified current clients orally, and that was followed up with written notifications that were sent in mid-April. Some 6,000 letters were sent to donors, clients, volunteers, vendors, and others associated with the agency over the last 12 years, she explained.

hard, painful decision. Our operating expenses in Contra Costa were \$50,000 a month, and there was a shortfall of \$20,000 to \$30,000 a month." She said the agency's ten staff members were the first to be told and that almost all of them have found other jobs, including those working for the county.

Keilch said that AIDS Alliance staff were quick to contact her office once the decision was made in order to provide a smooth transition.

Other AIDS Alliance services such as mental health counseling and massage therapy are likely to continue uninterrupted as well, since the identity of the case managers is not changing, and it is expected that case managers will call on the same resources they've developed over the years, Grossman said.

Another service provided by the AIDS Alliance was a buddy program that utilized volunteers.

Grossman said that former AIDS Alliance volunteers have expressed an interest in continuing to help people living with HIV/AIDS. It's unclear how the volunteer services will be formulated.

greatly from AIDS Alliance services, particularly in benefits advocacy. "They appealed my disability benefits and got me retroactive to 1995," he said. "I'm in pretty good shape now; my lover is working. It's not a horrible crisis for me."

That is probably not the case for the hundreds of other former AIDS Alliance clients, in spite of the county providing uninterrupted case management services.

Ironically, Milliken said he was on his way to the AIDS Alliance when he got his mail last Wednesday. "I was about to take books to their lending library," he told the B.A.R. ▼

County AIDS Program Director Rusty Keilch said that people who were enrolled and receiving case management services through the AIDS Alliance in Contra Costa County should contact their case managers. Other individuals who need services should call John Sturr at (510) 313-6781 or (800) 287-0200 during regular business hours.

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HEALTH NEWS

Phase II preventive HIV vaccine trial to start

Studies to take place in 13 other cities, too

by Cynthia Laird

A phase II study for a preventive HIV vaccine is scheduled to start in San Francisco this summer; 13 other cities will also be participating in what is only the second such research trial in the country. On Monday, May 5, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the Department of Public Health (DPH) to enter into a contract for the program.

Dr. Susan Buchbinder, research branch chief at the DPH's AIDS Office, said that most of the participants for the trial have already been selected. About 420 gay men will participate in San Francisco, where the study will draw 30 men from 14 sites.

The vaccine trials in other

cities will target different populations, including women and injection drug users.

The men who will be in the San Francisco study have taken part in an earlier HIV vaccine preparedness study, Buchbinder explained. That first phase I study was to determine safety in low-risk individuals. Phase II looks at safety in higher-risk individuals, said Buchbinder.

The participants will be evenly divided. Some will be given the preventive HIV vaccine, others will receive a placebo. Buchbinder said that since this is a phase II safety and immune study, the use of a placebo is standard; it is needed in order to determine whether the vaccine is safe and if people develop an immune response. "If there is no placebo, we'd have a hard time

interpreting any immune response," she said.

Buchbinder, the principal investigator for the San Francisco site and co-chair of the study nationally, said the study is significant because if results are promising, it could lead to an unprecedented phase III study.

"This is a really important step forward. Hopefully, it will give us some answers," Buchbinder told the B.A.R. "This could lead to an actual study to test and see if the preventive HIV vaccine works, and that would be a first in the United States."

Previously, there has been only one other phase II preventive HIV vaccine trial. Simply stated, Buchbinder said the scientific community determined those results were not promising.

Dr. Mitch Katz, AIDS Office



Rick Gerhardt

Dr. Susan Buchbinder: "Hopefully, it will give us some answers."

director, agreed the upcoming trial is a step forward. "We believe vaccine development is very significant and certainly holds great promise," he said.

Katz said the San Francisco study will go on for about nine months. The men will receive multiple doses of the vaccine or placebo. ▼

UC Davis docs' vaccine slows HIV changes

by Ed Susman,
UPI Science News

IDS researchers from the University of California at Davis say they have developed a vaccine that, in test tubes, prevents HIV from mutating to escape attack by the body's immune defenses.

At the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology Monday, May 5, the scientists reported success in laboratory cell cultures. They designed an antibody that binds to the sites where HIV changes most often. Stabilizing those sites could give a future AIDS vaccine a chance to prevent infection.

The research team used blood serum from AIDS patients in San

Francisco, Puerto Rico, and Canada. With a computer analysis, Maria Carlos and colleagues created the complex antibody that binds to the five sites where the virus changes most frequently.

Nancy Hall, chairman of the meeting's program committee, comments that an anti-AIDS cocktail including the antibody could pave the way for a workable AIDS vaccine.

Hall, from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, says researchers now need to see if the vaccine cocktail can prevent infections, possibly in animal models before human testing can begin.

In another presentation at the meeting, researchers suggest that the deadly anthrax toxin could be used to deliver a vaccine that would kill the AIDS virus but not

healthy human cells.

Researcher Jimmy Ballard of Harvard Medical School says the vaccine would shuttle immunizing proteins into cells by using the ability of anthrax to invade cell membranes.

Before turning the toxin loose on the body, however, scientists strip away harmful aspects of the toxin.

Studies with mice have confirmed the power of the concept, showing that substances hitchhiking on anthrax toxin can protect the animals from viral infections.

Ballard says, "This vaccine system may find application against a wide array of diseases, including AIDS. There is also a strong possibility that these vaccinations may also be useful in the treatment of several types of cancer." ▼

Experimental AIDS vaccine protects chimps

by Susan Milius
UPI Science Writer

An experimental AIDS vaccine based on DNA has proved strong enough to protect laboratory chimps exposed to 250 times the infectious dose of virus.

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and colleagues reported their promising results in the journal *Nature Medicine* Tuesday, April 29.

David Weiner, senior author of the report, says that researchers need a lot more work before they can tell if such a vaccine would work in humans.

Weiner noted that protecting two chimps from infection marks

the first triumph in primates for a so-called DNA vaccine. These injections send bits of viral DNA into primate cells in attempts to activate the immune system. Previous experiments with this kind of vaccine had flopped in primates.

Weiner describes the relatively new field of DNA vaccines as a possible answer to an old dilemma of the two traditional vaccine types. Vaccines made from feeble strains of living virus kick up strong immune protection but, in rare cases, cause the disease. In contrast, vaccines made from killed virus are much safer but do not activate as much of the immune system.

Weiner says the DNA vaccines do not have enough of the

viral genes to cause the disease, but do seem to mimic some of the positive effects of a live-virus vaccine.

Weiner says doctors have already begun the first safety tests of DNA vaccines for AIDS in humans.

His lab has been developing the vaccines with scientists from Apollon Inc. in Malvern, Pennsylvania, and the University of South Florida in Tampa.

In an accompanying editorial, another veteran AIDS researcher, Ron Kennedy, noted "a number of different vaccine approaches that have not panned out." However, Kennedy, from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, does call the DNA approach "promising." ▼

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Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Lyle Thomas Jahnke
May 8, 1956 – Nov. 28, 1993

Hard to believe you would have been 41 years old this week. Even harder to believe you've been gone from us for 3 1/2 years.

But you live in my heart daily – that beautiful face, your sweet soul and the way you could always make me laugh. All of these and more bring a wistful smile to my face every time I think of you.

Love forever, Eric

Raymond Elliott Lokken
April 5, 1948 – May 2, 1997

Raymond Elliott Lokken, son of Elliott Raymond Lokken and Eleanor Lokken, passed away at his home in Novato on May 2. Raymond is survived by his mother; his sisters, Kay, Judith and Nancy; and an extended family of hundreds of people whose lives he touched.

Ray loved beauty and had lived in some of the most beautiful places on earth. His spiritual homes included the mountains of Colorado, the waters of Maui and the fresh air of Marin. He was a gifted horticulturist who created magnificent gardens which reflected his own peaceful and sublime nature.

His friends appreciated his quick wit, easy humor, and profound love of learning and the arts. He lived a life of conscious integrity that was an example to everyone who knew him.

Ray experienced love and loss with Noble Napoleon, his partner in Hawaii, who passed away nine years ago. Noble and Raymond shared a deep love of Hawaii – its music, traditions and spirit. They both loved to swim with the dolphins, and all of his loved ones hope that he is splashing away joyfully.

There will be a family memorial service on May 8 in Wisconsin and another in Marin on Saturday, May 10. Call (415) 647-1670 for details. Interment will be at the Crested Butte Cemetery in Crested Butte, Colorado, on June 22.

John R. ("Jack") Steinhebel
May 1, 1997

On May 1, Jack's nearly 15-year battle with AIDS ended. As he had envisioned so many times during his last days, he walked into the brilliant white light and accepted the outstretched hand of his waiting lover.

Jack's rich history of serving others began when he was a medical corpsman in the Air Force. After returning to Chicago where he was born and raised, Jack continued to be active in church and community service organizations. He had another successful career running his nationally acclaimed dog grooming school and his pet shops/grooming parlors.

On a trip to New York, Jack met and fell in love with Dr. Kenneth Meeks. The two of them shared the next decade in New York, where Jack played a significant behind-the-scenes role in the battle against AIDS as a "helpmate" to Ken, who was a professor at NYU and on the GMHC's board of directors. Jack was also the personal assistant to Mathilde Krim, the founder of AmFAR.

Jack spent his last four years among friends in San Francisco. In addition to his "boys," Zachary, his teacup poodle, and Bobo, his Pekinese, he is survived by many friends who considered him family.

A memorial service will be held on June 7. Please call Chuck Cole at 415/550-0800 for details.

BAY AREA REPORTER**Gay city man named to health plan board**

by Cynthia Laird

Open gay city resident Frederick Hobson has been appointed to the San Francisco Health Authority Governing Board, the locally developed health maintenance organization (HMO) responsible for a Medi-Cal managed care system for the city. Hobson's first meeting was Wednesday, May 7.

Several years ago, the state Department of Health Services developed a strategic plan to increase enrollment by Medi-Cal beneficiaries in managed care health plans. Since then, the city created a public entity to operate the local plan.

The plan primarily serves the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Medi-Cal beneficiaries, who are required by the state to enroll. There are approximately 26,000 members in the plan now.

People with other aid categories under Medi-Cal, such as HIV, can voluntarily enroll in the plan. Some of the current members fall into that category, said Shahnaz Nikpay, chief executive officer of the health plan.

Hobson, who is HIV-positive, said that as one of two people who represent Medi-Cal beneficiaries, his three-year appointment is important. A woman, Libah Shepard, was also appointed to represent this group, Hobson said.

"My job on this governing board is to vigorously advocate for its health plan members, to ensure that each receives the very best healthcare delivered in the most sensitive manner," Hobson said.

The 19-member board, chaired by Health Director Dr. Sandra Hernandez, is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to be representative of the diverse concerns and interests of the community. Provider groups, hospitals, organized labor, and government officials are also on the board.

"The governing board decides



Frederick Hobson

how the program will be delivered," Hobson said, adding the health plan is a unique public-private HMO.

The health plan, which started in January, operates through six physician Medi-Cal groups and five hospitals with which they are affiliated. The network includes 21 county and community-based clinics, as well as pharmacy, vision, and ancillary service providers. The plan provides a full range of services, including primary and specialty physician care, hospital care, urgent and emergency care, preventative services, perinatal, and family planning services.

Nikpay said that the plan is always adding new physicians, so the number of doctors participating is expanding.

The health plan is paid monthly on a capitated basis by the state for each enrolled member. The plan, in turn, pays a monthly capitation to the Medi-Cal groups and hospitals for members based on the affiliation of the member's primary care provider.

"We're paid per person, not per visit or per service," Nikpay

said.

Hobson is a founding member of the community advisory committee that was formed in 1994, following the state's announcement of its strategic plan.

"My long range goal on this board is to continue to work cooperatively ...with the San Francisco Health Authority to reach an outcome that will be a blueprint to return the healthcare industry back into the capable hands of patients, doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers, and out of the clutches of stockbrokers, bureaucrats, and careerists," Hobson told the B.A.R.

Hobson, 48, has been active in several organizations, including the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Democratic Club. ▀

For more information about the San Francisco Health Plan, call (415) 547-7800 or (800) 288-5555. The governing board meets the first Wednesday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m. at 568 Howard Street, fifth floor. Meetings are open to the public.

Gregory H. Fletcher

The conundrum in AIDS clinical trials

by Matthew Sharp, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Imagine having lived through ten years of an epidemic, watching friends and lovers die, wondering how much time you have left. You have taken just about every antiviral drug known to man, and your viral load is creeping up. You have forced down thousands of pills, tolerated side effects, lost sleep and been poked and prodded more times than you can count. Because you have combined and re-combined every drug imaginable, your virus has mutated to be untreatable. You are on a downward spiral. You want more options. You've fought hard to stay alive, you just need to buy a little more time.

So you go shopping for a new drug, in yet another clinical trial. Glaxo's 1592 ...hmm, sounds promising. Whoops, your T-cells are too low. DMP-266 ...hey, just maybe. Nope, it excludes all the drugs you've ever taken! Here's one ...hydroxyurea plus ddl. Don't think so, it has a ddl monotherapy arm.

Jeez, what's going on here? With all these new drugs under development, you can't get into the trials! It's no wonder that trials today aren't enrolling people, and researchers are scrambling for answers.

In the past, clinical trials were a mechanism for PWAs to access promising therapies and a way to augment failing regimens. However, clinical trial design has not kept up with the reality of treatment history for PWAs. Clinical trials today are over-exclusionary, excluding people who have taken existing therapies, or people with too low or

too high CD4 counts. Many current clinical trials require sub-optimal regimens, placebos controls, and are run by archaic FDA regulations.

The most significant problem in the design of trials today is subjecting participants to sub-optimal treatments. Given what is known about the success of triple drug combinations with a protease inhibitor, and the fear of resistance, it is unethical to enroll people in single therapy trials — or, some say, even dual therapy or regimens without a protease inhibitor — because invariably people will develop resistance and become untreatable. The recent closure of ACTG 320, a trial using sub-optimal treatment, demonstrated again that three drugs including a protease inhibitor are better than two drugs without a protease inhibitor, especially in people who have taken the drugs before.

ACT UP/Golden Gate and other activists lobbied hard to stop ACTG 320, because we knew the danger in placing people on sub-optimal therapy, but the ACTG researchers refused to listen. Sadly, 18 lives were lost in the non-protease inhibitor group, and viral resistance developed in the participants who lived.

Common problems

Many clinical trials are ruled by FDA regulations that call for monotherapy (single drug) data and require that the drug shows superiority over an abandoned standard of care. Researchers are used to the outdated model of testing one single drug against another or testing one new drug against a known combination that in many cases is known to be inferior. It's clear that we are stuck in the comparison mode.

(Some trials still use sugar pills to compare!) In order to get approval, the drugs tested must qualify according to these standards. Drug companies like this methodology because it can save money and highlight their drug, paving the way for approval and marketing.

Another important problem with trials today is the exclusion of people who are sickest and most desperate for new drugs because drug companies and researchers want cleaner data from healthier people who do not have resistant virus. In other words, a clean slate. Therefore, trials today typically cut off people at an arbitrary 50 CD4 count or exclude people who have been on other therapies. Since the majority of people with AIDS have tried at least one antiviral drug, there is a conundrum about who is actually going to be left to study at all. And of course, as long as there are exclusions, researchers will have to face the reality of people having to lie to get into trials.

Trials must also encompass all populations that need to be studied. Women are still inadequately researched. Adolescents fall through the cracks because they are not pediatric and they are not adults. What about newly infected populations? What is the most ethical way to run trials in these people?

Clinical trials today must incorporate pharmacokinetic (drug interaction) studies early on to warn of toxicity. These studies can be done in animals or very early in the clinic. Typically, drug interaction studies aren't done because they are expensive. And of course, drug companies won't look at interactions with street drugs because they are not acceptable! They want to rush their drugs approval with the bare minimum data.

Which brings us to post-marketing studies — or the lack of them. An important way to gather more confirmatory data after drugs have reached approval and are in the pharmacy is to look at longer term follow-up on the participants. Activists have fought for years to get the industry to sponsor and pay for these trials. Often the trials are never done because they are hard to enroll and expensive. With all the various drugs and combinations available today, regulations must be enforced to perform post-marketing studies. Follow-up data could be compiled in observational data base studies of people who are on drug continuation after trials are complete, and monitoring could be done with the primary care physician.

This is the real tug of war. Can we get useful data out of trials and still remain ethical? Trials can be designed for real world

scenarios. Regulations can be changed to change the dogmatic single drug comparison trials. Studies could be done using the participant as its own control. Observational data base studies could be run on everyone taking HIV drugs and collected in a central data collection center. Large-scale trials could also be run in developing countries where new therapies are desperately needed, as long as they are ethical.

AIDS drug research today is driven by pharmaceutical profits and the outdated bias and habits of government bureaucrats — not by good science, or ethics, or an understanding of the pathogenesis of HIV. An upcoming advisory meeting to the Antiviral Drug Product Committee at the FDA will be held in July to discuss the topics in this article. Pressure must be placed on the committee to re-evaluate the AIDS clinical trial model for the second decade of the epidemic and make trials safe, useful to PWAs, and ethical. ACT UP/Golden Gate is raising money at this time to send several people with AIDS and AIDS activists to these meetings to fight for new guidelines. ▼

People who want to learn more about clinical trial design are invited to our treatment issues meetings, every other Thursday evening at ACT UP/Golden Gate, 592B Castro Street. Call 415-252-9200 for specific dates and times.

AIDS researchers discuss the value of diversity in T-cells

UPI Science News

AIDS researchers warn that HIV turns the body's immune system into Swiss cheese, punching holes that may require early medication.

A team of researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases reported Tuesday, April 29 that the virus can wipe out the body's entire force of certain types of disease-fighting cells. Even though the total number of so-called CD4 T cells may not look too bad, the diversity drops. Once a type disappears, the body cannot easily recreate it.

Dr. Clifford Lane, the senior author of the report, notes that a patient may seem to be making a comeback with a rising CD4 cell count. However, the research suggests the body is just churning out more copies of the few types that remain instead of replacing the whole array.

Lane, clinical director of the institute, says this insight emphasizes the importance of starting early to control the infection before the virus destroys whole cell types.

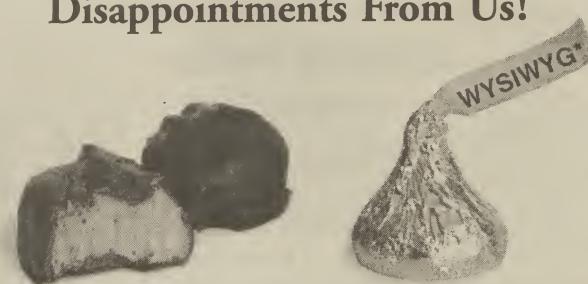
The research, published in the journal *Nature Medicine*, also highlights the value of an early start on medicines to prevent secondary infections. Even though the total CD4 count may still fall into the respectable range, key protection may already have disappeared.

The research may discourage patients from stopping therapy even if initial results seem good. Lane cautions that even weeks after CD4 counts have risen, the body still does not seem to have compensated for the missing types.

The good news, says Lane, is that the human body builds a lot of backup into immunity and in some cases can work around losses. He compares the problem to the letter tiles in the spelling game of Scrabble. "Let's say you lose the letter 'z,'" he says. "You can't spell 'zebra,' but eventually you'll be able to spell 'white horse with black stripes.'"

The research team, with first authors Dr. Mark Connors and Dr. Joseph Kovacs, has created a stir with preliminary reports of this research at meetings during the past two years. ▼

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Demolition man

by Jim Provenzano

Corporate sponsorship in sports: corrupt or what? Devoted readers already know my answer. The fun is in the facts. Let's begin our dissection with the most egregiously malodorous, the "motorsports" field.

Apparently some members of this "sport" are concerned about all those Marlboro and Winston labels painted and decalled over the cars, the flame-retardant uniforms, and the helmets of the sponsored studs who race cars.

According to the *Oakland Tribune*'s "Inside Motor Sports" columnist Jack Rux, David Vodden, the general manager of Thunderhill Raceway Park near Willows, has taken the first step toward battling the negative association between drag-racing and smoking.

Well, isn't it nice to see people taking a stand.

Personal note: About the same time I learned to drive a car, I was also learning to smoke, and also chug beers, sometimes all three at once. This was what kids in my rural hometown called a weekend's entertainment. For me, the association between driving and smoking is melded. There were few other places for me to smoke other than whilst tailgating with my high school friends. Thankfully, I've been able to live a life free of both these cancer-causing activities. What, driving causes cancer? Sure, it does. Do you think those fumes and stress-causing

traffic jams are immune-building?

But back to my point. I only bring this memoirist tidbit up as an example of my continuing re-education in the process of what exactly qualifies as "sport." I always thought that any activity that can also include drinking beer and smoking cigarettes is probably not too athletic.

Like pool, billiards, bowling and a host of other amusing activities that many dear readers engage in on a regular basis, these activities are by no means exhausting. They don't require funny uniforms, but they do require skill. That I admit. But anything that can be done in a sports bar (darts, pinball games, etc.) isn't necessarily a sport.

Driving a car, it seems, is.

"The motor sports industry needs to recognize the public health concerns about tobacco and act responsibly," Mr. Vodden was quoted as saying in his recent stand against his own sponsors.

Thank you for your caring.

Lifesize Hot Wheels

What strikes me funny about the general manager of a Raceway Park being concerned about smoking after all these decades of lung-rotting corporate sponsorship? Perhaps because the raceway, like all other centers of automotive activity, already has its own personal ozone hole from the gazillion gallons of gasoline burned up in the name of these

life-size Hot Wheels tracks. Every car is one more cigarette in the lungs of Mother Earth. Those who fail to grasp the veracity of that analogy should return to Ecology 101.

Perhaps my disdain for Mr. Vodden's newfound concerns stems from some confusion on my part, because the very term "motorsports," or "motor sports" (depending on which esteemed automotive publication or column one reads, it being so difficult to keep up with so many Orwellian developments in our language) resembles an oxymoron the likes of "military intelligence," "athletic scholarship," or, in the case of the Stadium Swindle, "only a hundred-million dollars!"

Vodden claims to be concerned about "our youth," i.e. the youth of the fans who attend these events where guys get paid to – and people pay money to see guys – race cars at ridiculously dangerous speeds all for the potentially morbid thrill of witnessing one or two – or if it's a particularly lucky day, a whole bunch of 'em – crash their cars and get blown up real good!

Combustibility is the selling point of racecars, and if some jerk is gonna be stupid enough to light up a Lucky Strike in a grease pit while his wheels are getting changed, then he deserves to be incinerated!

This is not to diminish the obvious sexuality of a person whose



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Smoke and mirrors: This racer is definitely lung-challenged.

uniform is a sort of fireproof condom, or earthbound space gear, with that especially handy front zipper. Talk about butch drag.

This is also not to diminish the intelligence of "motorsports" fans as beer-guzzling, bigoted, white trash – excuse me, "alcohol-dependent" – lower-income, tolerance-deficient Caucasian Americans who attend these events. Some of them actually object to the plastering of cars with logos for corporate products, and not just for the aesthetic reasons.

Of course, some of them smoke and drink a lot, or to borrow an appropriate Malapropism uttered by a British rugby player, "They drink like chimneys."

In one of few bows to logic, President Clinton has signed legislation limiting the use of ads for tobacco products. Fine, but since pig bigot Jesse Helms got that cushy foreign policy slot, we know where all the smokes are being shipped – to Asia and all the other developing and Third World countries where a pack of Camels can practically pay a month's rent on the family hut.

The tobacco industry isn't losing a millipoint of stock value from Bubba or the managers of racecar pits making overtures of limitations. I don't see any bill-

boards being ripped down.

Besides, I don't know why the government believes kids think Joe Camel was cool. Why would anyone want to imitate a guy with a penis for a face? It's the adults that are getting hoodwinked.

Perusing through a vintage *Sports Illustrated* magazine, circa May 1978, of 40 full-page ads, I found 13 for cigarettes, ten for booze, nine for cars, and one with Sammy Davis Jr. selling Alka Seltzer. He must have been behind on the alimony.

Almost 20 years later, aside from the tacky clothes and Sammy's absence, things haven't changed much. The advertisements have little, if anything, to do with sports, or health. In fact, if you were to consume all of these products at once, you could be a booze-guzzling, cigar-puffing truck driver, and you can bet ya'll blow up real good!

The sports "industry," as the well-intentioned Mr. Vodden accurately terms it, is still, has always been, and always will be ruled, run and racketeered by the guy who owns the team, the guy who wants only your fat and dirty dollars, the real Joe Camel, a/k/a Jesse Helms, a/k/a Philip Morris, a/k/a Death & Destruction, Inc., the real Demolition Man. ▼

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Sharon Boyd

◀ page 15

that I successfully completed a regimen of treatment for a medical condition, under my doctor's advice and orders."

She calls her foes "an organized enemy who wants to take our children away from us because they think that we are bad parents based on our status. In their minds they make no distinction between gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual. It is all the same to them, and they are coming after us, they don't think that we should have our kids."

"They are already manipulating legislatures and public opinion to short-circuit the judiciary. That is why I haven't had a contempt ruling or even a hearing for two years. If you remove the condition of transsexuality of one of the parents, they would have transferred custody ages ago."

Justice denied

Sharon keeps getting teased – taunted, really – with tentative arrangements for a phone conversation with the boys, but it always evaporates as the time draws close.

She believes that justice will be delayed even longer because "nobody wants to be on the record telling Karen that she has to go to jail for not obeying a court order" to allow the contact. And she fears that the issue has become so politicized that no judge wants to deal with it, hence they stall and delay.

Sharon says the experience has made her "stronger in myself. I've gotten closer to God, too. He has sustained me." She feels she "doesn't have a choice. I am going to be the enemy of injustice. My children are going to recognize me. They are going to be in touch, and I think we should be permitted to do that, for my sake and for their sake." ▼

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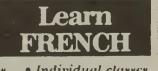

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Handel's 'Ezio' gets roughed-up in SF Opera Showcase production; SF Symphony does Verdi Requiem justice.
page 42, 43

Portrait of a neurotic lady: Tilda Swinton in 'Female Perversions.'
page 40



'Swan Lake' gets bent in Matthew Bourne's scintillating production.
page 36



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 19 • 8 May 1997

IDEAL IDOL

PORN STAR RYAN IDOL:
MAN OF MYSTERY

by Will Shank

I had been warned that Ryan Idol was high-strung and could be, um, difficult. But in a recent interview following a performance of *Making Porn*, the Ronnie Larsen vehicle in which the legendary porn star/actor is starring, I found him a complete pussycat. Charming and articulate, he was a pleasure to be with, the only difficulty being the distraction of his perfect looks. Born Marc Anthony Donais 30 years ago in Worcester, Massachusetts, Idol today is maturing into an Alec Baldwin look-alike, with the same great hair, chiseled features, smoky voice, and mesmerizing eyes. He is also an actor on the rise. During the course of our hour-long conversation, we talked about making porn, *Making Porn*, legitimate theater, food,

page 44 ►

Ryan Idol in *Making Porn*.

Mistress Raven, the proprietress of Pandora's Box, the bondage and discipline club that is the subject of *Fetishes*.

COMMODITY FETISHES

SEX-INDUSTRY DOCUMENTARY
DOESN'T DIG DEEP

by Gary Morris

In the mid-'70s, I spent some time in Los Angeles' hetero S&M subculture. My best friend was a straight woman who got sick of being an insurance claims adjuster and made a radical career switch at 21 to professional dominatrix. She had met some people in the scene who told her she could make a lot of money with minimal outlay of time and energy or personal compromise. She hired me as a sort of protector who'd lurk in the next room while she did her sessions, in case one of the tricks "turned," as she said. Being 6'2", an impressive personality, and one of the few black

page 46 ►

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by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

Oh, that incredible Oprah Winfrey! She is just the essence of inclusiveness. Last week, the TV talk-show host opened her gracious arms to Ellen DeGeneres and helped spread the news that it's okay to be gay. But wait, what's this? Oprah has given the boot to Dennis Rodman, the bisexual wedding-dress-wearing, multicolored hair star of basketball and movies? That's right. Oprah canceled Rodman's appearance on her show because his new book, *Walk on the Wild Side*, is just too hot for Oprah's countrified gabfest. The interview was due to be taped last week, but Oprah, in a statement released by her publicist, said, "After reviewing Rodman's new book, we decided it would be inappropriate to promote it to our viewers."

In his last tome, *As Bad As I Wanna Be*, Rodman turned heads by revealing explicit details of his affair with Madonna. But in *Walk On the Wild Side* Rodman outdoes himself by declaring he once had an affair with a transsexual and plans to change his name to "Orgasm."

Chicks with dicks

Actor Eddie Murphy could take some lessons from Rodman in the honesty department. Apparently no one in Hollywood believes the actor's song-and-dance about how he was "only going to his favorite newsstand to pick up a paper" when he ran into that nice tranny on Santa Monica Boulevard. Can you blame folks for being suspicious? How many people go out for a newspaper at 4 a.m.? And how many people have favorite newsstands conveniently located along a section of Santa Monica Boulevard known as a place to solicit queer sex? Does the early edition of the *LA Times* get delivered there first?

We used to dismiss as cheap gossip all those stories about Murphy being a notorious tranny-chaser given to hanging out in LA drag and strip clubs with Magic Johnson. In fact, *Vaginal Creme Davis*, if you remember, used to write about this all the time in a popular LA-based zine. Out There's *Otter Outrage* recalls that Davis once said that Murphy was fond of cruising certain areas of Hollywood because he knew that's where he could find "chicks with dicks."

First ladies

Chicks with dicks were certainly in abundance May 1 at Josie's for the fabulous Lypsinka Look-Alike/Perform-Alike Contest. The show was a real success, says producer Eric Glaser, who called this week to tell us who won top honors. The winner was Steven Le May as "Touch of Minka"; second runner-up was Kimo as "PINKA Slippa"; and third runner-up was La Lupe as "Loopsinka." The real success of the show, however, was Billy De Herrera, who performed a number from her upcoming show *Vanity Case*, opening Sunday at Josie's. The show was emceed by Lady Bunny, and the celebrity judges were Heklina of Transyshack, Wilkes Bashford, and Oscar-winning filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman.

Riding the Ellen wave

Almost everyone is in agree-



First prize winner of the Lypsinka Look-Alike Contest, Steven Le May, with John Epperson, the real thing.

ment that Ellen DeGeneres is queerdom's new saint. Why not? She's smart, cute, and can catch 42 million viewers with a single show. But what about Anne Heche, DeGeneres' gal pal and star of the new disaster epic *Volcano*? Something about this woman just doesn't ring true.

Anne says she'd never heard of Ellen before she saw her at a post-Oscar party, which strikes us as dubious, considering that the two live in the same town and that DeGeneres' face is as ubiquitous as daylight. Indeed, there's something a bit smarmy and opportunistic about Heche's sudden enthusiasm for DeGeneres. Don't the actress' wild

protestations of love for the comedian ("Sometimes souls connect and there's no segregation, there's just love," she told Oprah about Ellen) seem a tad suspect considering that they're erupting at precisely the same time as Heche's film *Volcano*?

Hitching a ride on a rising star like Ellen DeGeneres — 42 million viewers is nothing to scoff at — is surely the best way for an unknown actress to gain an audience overnight. Hope Ellen signed a prenuptial agreement.

Madonna Ekland

From Tinseltown this week we've learned that Madonna has just plunked down a half-million dollars for the rights to Roger Lewis' acclaimed biography of the late comedian Peter Sellers. Hmmmm. A film about Sellers

page 51 ▶

OBITER DICTA

According to *The New York Times*, thousands of messages were posted on America Online's "Ellen" bulletin board just hours after last Wednesday's coming-out episode on *Ellen*. One AOL subscriber close to Pithy Galore reports that most of the messages she read were positive, save a handful from pregnant women from Minnesota. Here's what more important people are saying:

"Despite the way ABC hyped the show, what has happened is very important. Ellen's coming out on TV will play itself out in very interesting ways in years to come. Young gays will look back on the show years from now and remember how it inspired them to come out, just as those of us who are now ancient were inspired to do something about our sexuality when we saw Anita Bryant's heinous 'Save the Children' campaign on TV back in the '70s."

—Michelangelo Signorile, author of *Life Outside: The Signorile Report on Gay Men: Sex, Drugs, Muscle and the Passages of Life*

"I'm hoping for some dimension and a little resonance. I would like to see a little less *I Love Lucy* and a little more Larry Saunders. Will she ever mention the word dyke?"

—Tom Ammiano, member, SF Board of Supervisors

"Ellen's coming out is sensational news, but I frankly don't give a damn. I personally don't look for my role models in pop culture. Besides, I don't watch TV. What is the name of her program?"

—Daniel Harris, author of *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*

"It's a fabulous and important event. Now I want to see the hype translated into movement forward for our community."

—Kate Kendall, Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights

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Queering a classic

Matthew Bourne's 'Swan Lake'

by Stephanie von Buchau

After seeing Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* in Los Angeles last weekend, I couldn't figure out all the superficial huffing and puffing about Ellen's coming out. I mean if you want homosexual art (but without all the dithering), Bourne's radical rethinking of Tchaikovsky's first full-length ballet is your meat. And you can take that literally.

Though some commentators have pretended otherwise, this is an openly gay *Swan Lake*, in which the psychologically-tortured Prince falls in love with a swan. The swan, however, is not the archetypal fluttering female ballerina who shrinks towards her Prince for emotional rescue. In director-choreographer Bourne's version, set in contemporary Britain, the Prince is the one in need of rescue, from a domineering mother, a cruelly repressive court life (wickedly parodying the Windsors), and his own sexually ambiguous feelings. His would-be-rescuer is a White Swan, a potently masculine dancer with a bare chest, bare feet, and feathery breeches that accentuate his powerful quads and glutes. With a cropped hairdo and a black stripe painted down his forehead and nose, the White Swan and his fellow male corps swans — all dressed identically — initiate the suicidal Prince into the rites of male love. It is sublimated, of course, but the second act, set in a moonlit lake in a formal London park, is by turns tender, tantalizing, frightening, and powerfully erotic.

The third act ballroom scene is normally the setting in which the magician Rothbart and his seductive daughter Odile (the Black Swan) dupe the Prince into swearing allegiance to the wrong swan. In Bourne's imaginative re-thinking, the ball turns into a mad riot when the male Black Swan shows up. He's a sexy, leather-clad punk whose villainy is represented by his orientation. He likes girls. He not only likes

Adam Cooper in *Swan Lake*.

Hugh Gardinier

them, he dances with them, feels them up, and covers them in hot, greedy kisses. The women swoon, but the poor Prince, thinking it is his beloved White Swan, goes mad with jealousy.

It's so clever and arouses such dark memories in the viewer — who hasn't gone to a party with a lover only to watch him or her flirt with others? — that the illogic of the last two scenes doesn't register until after you've floated out of the theater and spent a restless night tossing in bed dreaming about the story. In the 1895 Petipa-Ivanov

Swan Lake (not the 1877 original, but the one we are used to today), the evil magician motivates the White Swan to seek help. He encourages the Prince's betrayal by transforming his daughter Odile into a replica of the White Swan, and finally he fights to the death with the Prince for possession of the White Swan's soul.

In Bourne's version, with no magician to conjure him, the punk Black Swan comes out of nowhere — or is he a figment of the Prince's imagination, brought about by guilt over the pleasures experienced in the White Swan's arms? The final struggle is between the White Swan and his pals. I understand that the compassionate (and sexy) White Swan tries to save the now totally mad Prince, but I didn't understand why the other swans oppose and vanquish him. In the final tableau, the White Swan rescues the little Prince who appears in the prologue. This is not satisfying because by then we are so invested in the romantic relationship between the Prince and the White Swan that we don't want it explained away as a dream sequence or a psychological nightmare.

At the time, however, the audience goes nuts, screaming and standing for a full five minutes. And we didn't even see the glamorous first cast, featuring Adam Cooper, Lynn Seymour, and Scott Ambler. We saw William Kemp (the Swan), slender and haughty in white and dangerously volatile in black; beautiful Isabel Mortimer as the Queen; a boyishly innocent Ben Wright as the Prince; and sassy Emily Piercy as the Prince's vulgar "girlfriend."

Bourne's choreography is a vigorous blend of modern dance and

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THEATRE

by Chad Jones

Genesius Theater Productions deserves major bravado points for producing a pair of one-act AIDS dramas at a time when plays about death and disease have suddenly found themselves out of fashion. The tiny 30-seat Jewel Theatre provides a suitably intimate setting for two plays that, in their own distinctive ways, give voice to surviving lovers and their pain.

Lanford Wilson's *A Poster of the Cosmos* is a 30-minute monologue, expertly delivered by Tony Abou-Ganim, about a street-smart New Yorker named Tom, who is being interrogated by police about the death of his lover Johnny. Tom's story is full of by-now-familiar riffs on the experience of watching a lover fade away, but playwright Wilson provides much-needed edge by revealing surprising details about the men's relationship. Louis Parnell ably directs.

Harvey Fierstein's *On Tidy Endings* is a one-hour exploration of grief from seemingly opposing sides: the ex-wife (Kimberly Richards) with whom the deceased shared 16 years and fathered a son, and the gay lover (Parnell) with whom he shared three years, most of which were spent fighting the illness. Director Nathaniel Roberts hasn't quite smoothed out all the rough spots in a mini-drama that also involves the dead man's son (an affecting performance by young David Jacobs) and a nervous lawyer (Dylan Russell), but whenever the focus is on the ever-reliable Richards and Parnell, the play takes off.

Together, these two plays make for a heavy evening, but strong performances and honest emotions lighten the load. *A Poster of the Cosmos* and *On Tidy Endings* continue at the Jewel Theatre through June 7. Call 626-9269 for information.

Pretty, witty, and fey

The words "audience participation" usually strike fear in the hearts of theatergoers, but fear not. *Shear Madness*, the Paul Portner-penned murder mystery at the newly remodeled Mason Street Theater, is so much fun that most audience members are eager to participate when it comes time to figure out whodunit.

In its brisk two hours, *Shear Madness* manages to rise above mystery genre stereotypes and provide some genuinely silly entertainment. Foremost amongst the pleasures is Matt Callahan, who plays gay salon owner and murder suspect Tony Whitcomb. Tony is every imaginable stereotype of the gay hairdresser. He flirts, flutters, and dishes, washes, combs, and blow-dries. He's the most likable character in this appealing cast of six. Callahan's performance makes Tony accessible because he tends to play against stereotype. Yes, Tony is all the things described above, but Callahan's take on his character is that of a gay man who consciously affects a style of behavior that pleases himself enormously. "In the '80s I was a stereotype," Tony quips. "But in the '90s I'm postmodern."

It is no wonder then that audiences vote for Tony as the murderer less often than the other characters, who are decidedly more sinister. There's the Nob Hill society lady (each production of *Shear Madness* is tailored to the city in which it is being performed), a sassy ethnic hairdresser, and an uptight British customer with a secret attachment to the sassy ethnic hairdresser. The two undercover SF cops on the

scene direct the action and interact with the audience to map out the play's conclusion.

Director Bruce Jordan sets a fast pace up to the murder, and then slows things down as the audience gets involved in the action. At times, *Shear Madness* just seems too big and slapstick for the little Mason Street Theatre, but in the end the tomfoolery mingles with the mayhem in just the right measure. *Shear Madness* continues at the Mason Street Theatre. Call 982-5463 for information.

Slippery mess

Twelve years ago, Frankie Valli sang that "Grease is the time is the place is the motion, Grease is the way we are feeling." Today, however, *Grease* is an abomination, a crude marketing ploy that exists solely to whip teenage girls into a poodle skirt-wearing frenzy. This is the second *Grease* tour to come through town, which is two too many versions of the still-running Broadway revival snaking their way across America.

Last time around we had Rex Smith and Sally Struthers head-

lining the cast. This time we have luminaries Adrian Zmed (who played a lead role in the movie *Grease 2*, one of the best worst movies of all time); Mackenzie Phillips; and, once again, the apparently job-starved Struthers.

The tacky day-glo sets, the hand-held microphones, and the gimmicky production numbers add up to the theatrical equivalent of a rickety, noisy carnival. To cover up the shoddy production, the volume of the show has been set at ear-splitting levels. But, alas, it will take more than a nasty ringing of the ears to mask the manifold deficiencies of this wretched attempt to invoke the fluorescent joys of life and love of '50s teen dreams. No dice. *Grease* continues at the Golden Gate Theatre through May 11. Bring sunglasses and earplugs. Call 776-1999 for information. ▼

E-mail *Curtain Up!* at crtup@aol.com. All theater/cabaret comments, suggestions, and information are welcome.

Curtain Up!



Louis Parnell and Kimberly Richards in Harvey Fierstein's *On Tidy Endings*, and Tony Abou-Ganim in Lanford Wilson's *A Poster of the Cosmos*.

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Existential triangulation in Chantal Akerman's *Night and Day*.

'Jules & Jim' for the '90s

Chantal Akerman's 'Night and Day'

by Gary Morris

Chantal Akerman has cited Godard as a primary inspiration for her films, but surrealists like Paul Delvaux, Giorgio de Chirico, and Rene Magritte are more credible sources for the hypnotic quietude, painterly compositions and lighting, and the sense of the oppression of daily life in her work. Like Magritte, Akerman was born in Belgium but works in Paris. She can be roughly grouped with a small number of French filmmakers like Claire Denis and Olivier Assayas who are breathing new life into a cinema that many believe peaked several decades ago with the *nouvelle vague*.

Night and Day (1992) might have been titled *The Sleepwalkers*; the characters wander through their small, suffocating world as if in a dream, even referring to it openly in such terms. The film be-

gins with a portentous Bernard Hermann-esque musical motif that hints at dire, dramatic things to come. This idea is immediately undercut by what seems to be the coziest of love nests. Jack (Thomas Langmann) and Julie (Guilaine Londez) have recently moved from the provinces to an airy flat in Paris. During the day the two make love, discuss how happy they are, and ponder the most narrow details of their present lives and future possibilities. At night, Jack drives a cab and Julie wanders through the streets in a mysterious search for something that is never directly disclosed.

The apartment where the two spend most of their time is more than a mere dwelling space; Akerman treats it as a sort of psychic zone in which the two constantly test and act out their feelings and beliefs. Jack dreads the void of their somnambulistic existence, which threatens their lives together. "When I sleep, I don't live," he

says mournfully. At first Julie agrees with him, but as the film (and Julie herself) progresses, she realizes she's untroubled by the emptiness that Jack fears: "Most of the time I think of nothing."

In an artful update of *Jules and Jim*, a third party enters their lives, another newcomer to Paris named Joseph (Francois Negret). He is the daytime driver of Jack's cab, and he and Julie begin a secret affair. The remainder of the film chronicles their romantic/sexual merry-go-round as the self-possessed Julie tries to juggle both men. All end up dissatisfied to various degrees.

The film has the sweet, sad air of a fairy tale, complete with names that sound like they came from the Brothers Grimm (they all begin with the letter J), an omniscient female narrator who comments on the action, as if she were telling a story, and an almost supernatural feeling of doom. But *Night and Day* is far from a formal exercise. Akerman is a focused observer of human behavior, and one of the many pleasures of this film is her subtle treatment of Julie, Jack, and Joseph as both puppets of an unknowable fate and human beings capable of wit, pleasure, and poignancy. In one scene, Jack laments running out of things to say to Julie. "I hope she can read great things beneath my silence," he says. During one of her many nighttime walks, Joseph can barely keep up with her. "What's the hurry?" he asks. "I'm hurried by life," she says. Characteristic of the almost brutal honesty these characters are capable of is Julie's reply to one of Joseph's many pleas for her to leave Jack: "I can't imagine life without you, yet you're in my way." In another scene, Joseph calls her "brutal" for her abrupt departures every morning to be with Jack. "We can't part in little pieces," she reminds him.

In a conversation with Jack, Julie calls their life together "a story with no drama." But Akerman builds the film's drama precisely from such comments, extrapolating a vast interior world through these characters' relentless probings of themselves and each other. ▼

PERFORMANCE

A bunny's tale

by Jerry Metzker

New York's Lady Bunny, one of the prime movers behind the annual Wigstock celebration, was in town last week to host the Lypsinka Look-Alike/Perform-A-Like Contest at Josie's. But before heading back to New York, Bunny gave locals a taste of her own performing skills with *24 Carrot Lady*, a fabulously entertaining one-woman variety show. "I'm an equal opportunity offender," Lady Bunny proclaimed early in the show. She proceeded to prove it by tossing out some of the raunchiest, nastiest jokes these ears have ever heard. Bunny also played to her SF audience, launching some of her more scathing jibes at local rivals, including Trannyshack's Heklina, performer Billy De Herrera (both in attendance and grandly enjoying themselves), and her old pal Lypsinka. Included in her set of songs were two tributes to Bobbie Gentry. Lady Bunny's voice is a provocative combination of Gentry's harsh sexiness and Peggy Lee-style throatiness.

Although she claimed to have weak impersonation skills, nothing could top Bunny's camp impression of early Kate Bush, and her fancy footwork — from clog dancing to *Laugh-In*-style gyrating — wasn't bad either. ▼



Mark Avery

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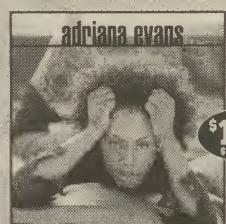


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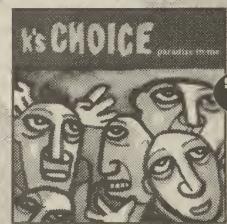


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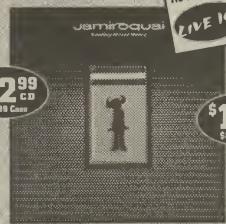


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The passion of Eve

Susan Streitfeld's 'Female Perversions'

by Erin Blackwell

Female Perversions is an odd, nerve-wracking, deeply disturbing film. Just how much the viewer's unease is part of first-time director Susan Streitfeld's strategy is impossible to say, but it makes for memorable voyeurism.

Ticket buyer, beware. *Female Perversions* isn't as sexy as the title sounds (although the film does contain remarkable sex and tease scenes) because the perversions in question are behavioral and involve a lot of angst. Perversions are what the people in this film do to get through the day, and have more to do with their not getting what they want or not enjoying what they have, than with any hedonist's dream of sensual indulgence.

Star Tilda Swinton, a cult favorite already for her work with Derek Jarman, is here fetishized to an almost embarrassing degree. She plays Eve Stephens, a thirtysomething lawyer in line for a judgeship on the LA County Court of Appeals, whose dazzling success is offset by her total alienation from her own experience. Bisexual, high-strung, manipulative, M & M gobbling, and given to saying "fuck" a lot, she is what commonly known as a bitch. Not since Joan Crawford embodied the heartless Mrs. Craig has American cinema offered us such an uptight and unlikeable heroine.

Thanks to feminist psychology, however, we now understand that Eve is just a victim of our gender-based culture. The film is in fact based on Louise J. Kaplan's galvanizing 1991 book of the same name. Director Streitfeld and co-scenarist Julie Hebert wrote the movie as a kind of illustration of the Freudian analyst's theory that perversions actually reinforce oppressive norms, the socially-prescribed woman's role itself being a perversion.

Not that Eve goes to a shrink. She doesn't need to. She's got a kleptomaniac sister who lands in jail in Filmore. ("Where the fuck is Filmore?!" blasts Eve, zipping along in her black Saab convert-

ible through "virgin" desert.) The emotional crisis precipitated by the revelation of Madeleine's (Amy Madigan) outlaw status both jeopardizes Eve's perfectionistic ascent to the judgeship and helps her become a better person.

The narrative line is pretty straightforward, involving trips back and forth between Eve's antisepic, anal-retentively lifeless apartment and office, and her sister's strange communal living situation somewhere out in the middle of gorgeous nowhere. But the storytelling is as fragmentary as the several shards of a broken mirror.

The camera makes us accomplices to Eve's unhappy narcissism, offering us bits and pieces

almost another classifiable species, while the syndrome she is demonstrating is common as dish soap.

For all its theoretical underpinnings and self-conscious aesthetic, the film is pretty good at waxing moralistic. There are maybe three chinks in its otherwise excruciatingly neurotic armor. First, there's a kind of anti-urban, back-to-nature ethos at work that becomes blatant only in the last scene. Second, the recurring, rather repetitive dream sequences are textbook surreal. Finally, the "straightest" character onscreen is a lesbian!

Karen Sillas plays Renee, the shrink next door who takes an elevator ride with Eve, goes to bed

True to psychoanalytic theory, and possibly even real life, Eve's redemption comes not through romantic love but through picking up the discarded pieces of her own psyche.

of Swinton's anatomy — a breast here, a breast there, then full-frontal, plus corporate drag complete with plunging neckline (which visibly turns the judge on), plus a close-up of her buttocks through sheer lingerie as she careers through a boutique pursued by inner demons whispering "wide through the ass." A few times we even get to see the demons. Through an imaginative use of point of view, Streitfeld implicates us in Eve's self-scrutiny in ways that leave a lasting, uncomfortable impression.

We often spy Eve by herself, trying to do successful female drag and getting into a tizzy over her failure to find herself convincing in the role. Even when she's with other people, she's busy watching both herself and their view of her. The only drawback to having Swinton lend her thoroughbred lineaments to this female disaster icon is that she's as unique a performer as Garbo,

with her, sends her flowers, and then excuses herself when she realizes Eve is as incapable of true feeling as she used to be herself. Before that demoralizing breakup, we're treated to a three-minute sex scene in a hammock with Tilda on top.

True to psychoanalytic theory and possibly even real life, Eve's redemption comes not through romantic love but through picking up the discarded pieces of her own psyche. As ill-matched as they are, the archly stylized Swinton and the gruffly literal Madigan reconcile their sororal differences in a hot bath that manages to release a lot of the film's accumulated tensions.

If only life were that easy. But if there were more films like this, maybe we wouldn't need analysts. ▀

Female Perversions plays May 9-15 at the Castro Theatre.

FILM

Love thyself

Roxie and Good Vibrations honor the art of self-love

by Gary Morris

Former Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders earned the everlasting hatred of the anti-abortion lobby when she dared suggest that America "get over its love affair with the fetus." When she also had the temerity to endorse masturbation as a sound, sensible activity, her enemies multiplied. One in particular, her traitorous boss Bill Clinton, fired her.

If Elders' situation seems anomalous, readers are advised to cruise the World Wide Web, where anti-masturbation tracts abound. Check out Mark E. Peterson's advice to tempted souls: "tie a hand to the bed frame ... in order that the habit of masturbating in a semi-sleep condition can be broken. This can also be accomplished by wearing several layers of clothing, which would be difficult to remove while half-asleep."

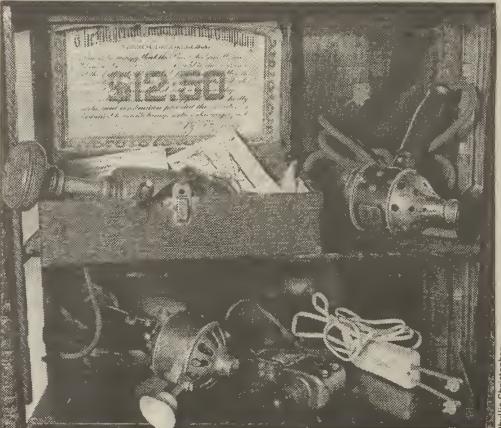
While this all seems depressingly Victorian, there are powerful counterforces at work, not the least of which is Good Vibrations. This indispensable dildo dispensary and sexual emporium has declared May "National Masturbation Month." The Roxie is providing a space to celebrate tonight (Thursday, May 8) with Carol Queen's clip show *Salute to Masturbation*, two hours of the "best" clips from porn and educational

the rest of us." Apparently, lecherous monks abound in porn from Italy and Mexico but are almost unknown in U.S. porn films. The 1954 sleazy short *The Nun's Story* was cut for U.S. release, and the masturbating nun was reborn as *College Co-ed*.

For the more technologically minded, *Salute to Masturbation* features an array of devices to help get the juices flowing. There are, of course, the standard dildos in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Among the more advanced items is the vacuum pump, which a skinny guy demonstrates in detail. "By the time I get through pumping," he says solemnly, "this tube will be filled with my meat."

There are taboos within taboos, as *Inappropriate Places to Masturbate* (1995) demonstrates. In this scintillating clip, we see a woman going into a huge Payless Drugs (it looks like the one near Rockridge in Oakland), where she proceeds to hump the carpet samples, writhe on the floor with an aluminum baseball bat between her legs, and spank herself with a huge spatula! In the next scene, a woman straddles a gas pump at an all-night service station.

Interspersed among the average Joes and Janes are some well-known porn stars. The ubiquitous Annie Sprinkle is here with a typical session of writhing and prattling. A gang bang from Joe Gage's *El Paso Wrecking Crew* (1977) re-



Antique vibrators from the Good Vibrations collection.

films from the past 20 years. The event will be hosted by Ms. Queen herself.

In *Masturbation Memories vol. 1* (1995), a middle-aged woman recalls at age four being caught by her granny playing with her cousin. "The shame that she put into us was something that stayed with me for a very long time." From her lively, close-up demonstration of the fine points of "feeding the kitty," it's clear she's gotten past this particular trauma.

While most readers probably realize the therapeutic benefits of masturbation, who knew that it's also patriotic? In one of the clips a huge, naked, red-feather-decked woman insists that "masturbation is good for the country! Why do you think they call it 'cunt'?"

There are other intriguing insights. According to *The History of the Blue Movie* (1984), "in Roman Catholic countries, blue movies are often anti-clerical ... to show that the clergy are no better than

calls gay icons Richard Locke and Fred Halsted for viewers who can look past the buckets of cum and the ring of hefty hard-ons.

Veronica Rocket's porn classic *Smoker* (1983) weighs in with a fascinating scene of multi-leveled voyeurism. Here, a sexy guy hides in a room with two mirrors — one regular and one two-way. He simultaneously watches himself masturbating (in a dress) while mimicking the activities of a straight couple fucking in the next room.

Salute to Masturbation is sexy and fun, and, best of all, refreshingly egalitarian, equally divided between men and women, gay and straight, old and young. One complaint: Did I blink, or are there no blacks in this show? ▼

Salute to Masturbation happens Thursday, May 8 at the Roxie Cinema (7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.). For information, call 863-1087.



Carol Queen will host the Roxie's *Salute to Masturbation*.

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Mixed bag

Roster of international conductors and soloists at Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

The last few weeks have brought two guest conductors to Davies Hall and, while both are primarily known for their work in opera, each was given a shot at large-scale symphonic repertoire. The results were mixed, but ultimately satisfying.

Donald Runnicles, Music Director of the San Francisco Opera since 1992, made his San Francisco Symphony debut in 1995 with Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*. The memory of those exceptional performances no doubt remains fresh, and it is no surprise he should wish to lead another big choral work. His understanding of singers and dramatic pacing make him a natural in this area, and he triumphed again with a very affecting performance of Verdi's great *Requiem Mass*.

From the hushed opening to the anguished close an hour and a half later, Runnicles never lost his grip on this ambitious score. The end result, even with some variable work from soloists, was gratifying.

Much of the credit for the success of the performance should go to Vance George's beautifully drilled San Francisco Symphony Chorus. Season after season, the singers respond to his demands



Boris Demontchuk

Nikolai Lugansky

with breathtaking skill, and local audiences must never take its quality for granted. The overwhelming force of the choral singing in the 'Dies Irae' coupled with the blaring trumpets and huge thwacks on the bass drum, created a genuine sense of terror, which is perfectly apt for this score.

Runnicles was not aiming for cheap theatrics, however, and the basic mood was somber throughout. This more introspective approach was not aided in the least by the strenuous tenor of Vincenzo La Scola, nor by the disappointing sharpness of soprano Helen Bickers. In fact, the only singer who dispatched her vocal duties with any sense of the music's rich complexity was Ewa Podles, who was making her highly anticipated debut at these concerts. Podles has sung Dalila at the Bastille Opera in Paris, and I can only imagine how delectable she must have sounded in that role. The evening's bass, Roberto Scanduzzi, ran a distant second.

John Nelson was Music Director of the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis for ten years. He has led important operatic performances at the Met, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Santa Fe Opera, and elsewhere. These admirable credentials held him in good stead in his recent San Francisco Symphony

performances, which featured an inspiring foray into big Russian symphonic fare. Previous visits with the SFS revealed Nelson's gift for choral repertoire, and I suspect that is his strong suit. However, last week he conducted Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony. The conductor's insights into the work seemed fragmentary; the ebb and flow of such a lengthy work must be shaped into something more than a string of gorgeous melodies.

Nelson provided more than adequate accompaniment for Tchaikovsky's Second Piano Concerto, which featured Tchaikovsky Competition winner Nikolai Lugansky at the keyboard. It is safe to say that even though Lugansky is young and supremely talented, Evgeny Kissin needn't worry about competition. Although the pianist won high marks here for a bravura parade through Tchaikovsky's piece, this is not a pianist of great depth. Formidable technique, maybe, but soul was left at the door.

The program opened with a very clever piece called *Desi*. The composer, Michael Daugherty, makes a career writing music about pop icons like Jackie O., Elvis, Superman. As fun as this sort of thing can be, it seemed grotesque in the context of this program. ▼

Swan Lake

◀ page 36

classical ballet; he's more graphic but less musical than Mark Morris. The women wear toe shoes. There is a parody ballet starring a "Moth Maiden" and other rude humor, which caused the graceless LA crowd to guffaw a tad too much; they shut up in a hurry when the piece turned tragic. The divertissements in the ball scene actually advance the plot. Bourne has used most of the original 1877 score (before Riccardo Drigo and Petipa got their hands on it), though it has been reorchestrated

for a pit band with fewer strings than I'd like in this lush music. Yet conductor David Frame produced a vivid, intense account of the score, and Lez Brotherton's sets and costumes are as energizing as Bourne's staging.

Bourne's British dance company, provocatively called Adventures in Motion Pictures, presents its exclusive U.S. engagement of *Swan Lake* at the Music Center Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles through June 25. (Broadway won't see the show until 1998.) I hesitate to add to the hype, but the ad copy's "See it or live to regret it" is right on. For tickets, call (213) 628-2772. ▼

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OPERA

Heavy weather

Handel's 'Ezio'

by Timothy Pfaff

The San Francisco Opera's decision to perform Handel's 1732 opera *Ezio* as this year's SF Opera Showcase may have offered the early music-hungry Bay Area a tantalizing opportunity to hear another of the composer's rarely performed operas (the production was billed as a West Coast premiere), but the sorry spectacle that reached the stage of the Ira and Leonore S. Gershwin Theater last week did little more than raise questions about who's minding the store at the San Francisco Opera Center. As the word "showcase" clearly signals, the purpose of these annual productions is to give Opera Center singers (in *Ezio* a half-dozen current or former Adler Fellows, in the final stages of their apprenticeships) a forum in which to shine. Unfortunately, only one of the singers, Canadian bass John Relyea, was an unqualified success. The others, though they all had their moments, seemed taxed by the demands of the music and unflattered by an ill-conceived production that proved equally unflattering to one of opera's greatest composers.

The Opera Center's first venture into period-appropriate Handel opera production — 1989's *Giustino* — succeeded largely because the company retained Handel expert Nicholas McGegan and his ace Philharmonic Baroque Orchestra to support the project, and because many of its cast members were promising young Handelians who have gone on to better things. The *Ezio* cast would be right to be scared off Handel for good.

The program listed McGegan and the estimable early-music mezzo Jennifer Lane as "Baroque style consultants" and Baroque dance specialist Catherine Turco as "Baroque Movement Workshop Director." If their contributions went beyond window dressing, they were undone by the evening's conductor, Opera Center Music Director Susan Webb, and director Max Charruyer.

The period-instrument players Webb assembled proved less than expert. The sour, curdled sounds that emerged from the shallow pit much of the time supported a passé notion that period instruments can't play in tune. Even if they had, Webb's languid, often



Soprano Peggy Kriha Dye

sluggish beat drained the music of vitality. The entire three-plus hour endeavor consistently sounded like it was winding down.

The stage direction was clumsy at best, laughable at worst. A wan attempt to emulate Baroque gesture, always ill-advised, produced a torrent of disconnected stock poses that gave the production the look of a provincial Mozart production circa 1920. Five hapless supernumeraries emerged like wooden cuckoo-clock figurines, and announced scene changes instead of hours, though hours is what it felt like.

The time frame was further confused by Dale Jordan's unit set, which consisted of gilt-framed Tiepolo paintings, and Walter Mahoney's colorful but largely ill-fitting costumes, which reflected the world of Tiepolo rather than Handel's England or the Rome of Pietro Metastasio's fine libretto. Cutting the opera slightly, and conflating Handel's three acts into two, confounded the sense of real

time and made the piece feel longer rather than shorter.

In the title role of the Roman general who defeated Attila the Hun only to face a far more dangerous foe at home, mezzo-soprano Elizabeth Bishop gave a performance that gathered strength

page 45 ►

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Ryan Idol

◀ Arts cover

and sex.

Making Porn is not news. The story of a frustrated straight actor who resorts to making gay porn has had several lives. But as enacted by Idol and co-star Joanna Keylock, the play, currently at the Cable Car Theatre, is enjoying new life and, yes, star power.

On the night I saw the show, Ellen Morgan DeGeneres had just come out as a lesbian. Hence, there was a certain symmetry to the evening. I was, after all, conversing with a man whose gay sexual activity is a matter of very public record, but whose own sexuality is in question.

Will Shank: I saw *Making Porn* for the first time last January in New York, and I noticed that you and Joanna play off each other quite well. I was glad to see you cast together again.

Ryan Idol: I kind of requested it. I brought Joanna along because Caryn Horowitz, the producer, and I have a good working relationship, and she asked me what cast I wanted in San Francisco, and I told her that the perfect cast

would be the same one that we had in New York. We also had Blue Lake in New York, who's great, but he went back to London. Now we've got Patrick O'Connor, the original Ray in the workshop production, here in San Francisco. The show is going to tour, at least to Toronto and London, so I guess it's guaranteed employment for quite some time. I

I have long maintained that you're the best actor in porn. You have such self-awareness, and it comes across quite well on stage, too. I hope you'll do more theatre.

I definitely want to pursue my theatre career. I'd love to play Danny Zuko in *Grease* and Tony in *West Side Story*. I foresee doing *Grease* in about a year and *West*

"I will say sincerely that I'm into the pleasures of the flesh, but I've never liked labels."

may not be able to do every city, but I'll try.

Will you be doing videos in between?

My last film, *Idol Gods*, should be released in the spring of 1998. We've talked about it for many years, and it's finally gonna be a real thing. I'll be writing and codirecting with Jerry Douglas, and I'm handling the budget and casting. It'll be one of the best videos I've ever made, and one of the best in the business.

Side Story in two years. But it's kind of a dream.

You've got the face for it; are you Italian?

No, I'm French, Irish, and American-Indian. Mostly French and Irish. I grew up in Massachusetts until I was 13. Then I moved in with my mother's sister in New Hampshire for a while. She showed me a different side of life in an *Eight is Enough* kind of family. New Hampshire was conservative, an ideal kind of place, with no crime, no homelessness, no



Will Shank

Ryan Idol

The what?

The gay thing.

What's the "gay thing"?

Everyone wants to know if you're gay or straight.

I think that's what makes my career what it is—there's a mystery there. Everybody who wants me to be gay thinks I'm gay, and everybody who wants me to be straight thinks I'm straight. I'm not evading the question, but I would prefer to maintain the aura of mystery. I will say sincerely that I'm into the pleasures of the flesh, but I've never liked labels.

I have to ask the question because the theme of *Making Porn* is about a straight man who makes a living doing gay porn.

Absolutely, but I think it's important to keep the mystery there, and that's part of the fun of the play. I love the mystery.

How come you don't use your real name?

I've always believed that if you crawl under a rock and try to hide something, people will want to dig it up ten times more. I want to use Ryan Idol as my crossover name. Marc Anthony Donais and Ryan Idol are one and the same. Ryan Idol is a name that is very well-recognized, and I love that name. I created it.

If your theatre career takes off, will you leave porn films behind?

I always wanted to be a movie star. I don't mean to knock the movies, but I think it's so hard to get into. I guess some people think it's hard to get into the theatre, but I'm hooked on performing live, in front of an audience. You can grab your audience and you can lose your audience—but you can also get them back. That's the challenge.

But if you pursue straight theatre, will you continue to make porn films?

I think it would phase out. I wouldn't want to disgrace my audience, but I would never try to hide it either.

Tell me about your next project.

My new movie, *Idol Gods*, takes place in an art museum. The gods are porn guys who were turned to stone because the government wanted to show that they could get control of the Sexual Revolution. So 20 years later it comes back to where it started at the Los Angeles Museum of Modern Art [sic]. These guys are released from bondage and they come alive, and it's a big sexual expression. When the gods are released from bondage the message is even greater. This is going to be my last piece, and it's going to be a piece of art. We start shooting in the summer of '97.

What do you mean by "last piece"?

I want to go out with a statement, a nice piece of work, an art piece. I'm not going to put an end to the Ryan Idol career, but I have other things I want to pursue.

Hollywood take note. ▼

Making Porn is at the Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason Street, through May 18. Call 956-8497 for tickets and information.

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Remains of the strays

by Nisa Donnelly

The Risk of His Music by Peter Weltner; Graywolf Press, \$12.95

Peter Weltner captures the essence of life in his latest collection of short stories, *The Risk of His Music*. Masterfully crafted, the seven stories between these covers are filled with memorable characters whose lives are as rich as the author's unshaded prose. From his tortured Vietnam vets, who amble through more than one of the stories, to the quiet, impotent life of an old man looking for death, Weltner's stories cut close to the bone of human emotion without becoming mawkish or sentimental.

Some of the tales focus entirely on gay men in the age of AIDS. Friends sicken and die. Lovers and reason are lost. The very ethics and pathos of how young gay men — and in some cases, old men — deal with death and the desolation of spirit are vividly explored.

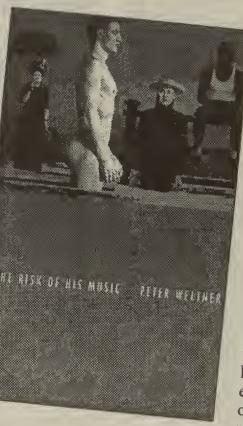
In "The Greek Head," two gay couples — one aging, the other young — mirror each other. And yet the mirror is warped, so that the image presented is never as accurate as the young narrator imagines. "My Faithless, Faithful Friend" and "Hearing Voices" are the tragic epilogues of gay life in San Francisco at the height of the epidemic.

"How many of those Laguna boys are still alive and now, like me, middle aged? The plague is our war. Those astonishing bodies from the past are like snap-

shots in my mind. Since the light in those days was much too bright for any image to come out totally sharp and clear, they were fuzzy, as if already a little faded, even when they were new. But for a few hours that weekend I felt a happiness so piercing that I repeatedly had to remind myself that it wouldn't last."

In "Self-Portrait with Cecil and Larry," set in New Orleans, an aging queen and his artist friend are caught in a frenzied Gothic dance; one looking for perfection in the ideal of beauty, the other seeking it in beauty's scarred and misshapen dregs. Each finds what he longs for and despises the other for his good fortune.

Weltner is fascinated with the freaks and freakishness of life and the lessons that can be learned from looking closely at those who are labeled outsiders. Weltner explores this theme in detail in the third section of the book, where the stories focus on the sheer oddity of humanity. "Buddy Loves Jo Ann" is the antiseptic love story of two old friends who found each other as outcast children who lacked the courage and



the passion to ever step outside the insulated world of their own creation.

The title story, "The Risk of His Music," is as passionate as the Brahms and Mahler that play continuously in the background of the story. In these pages, a loner is befriended by a reclusive older man who is part of the peculiar, small-town

landscape in which the story is set. An atypical coming-of-age tale, the piece is a chilling glimpse of the inner workings of tiny hamlets and the equally tiny minds that often inhabit them.

The only weak story in this collection is a fantasy, "Unlike Himself," in which an acerbic professor and a young street hustler change bodies, to the dismay of both.

Weltner's writing is pure joy. His eye for detail in rendering the human condition and his unflinching portrayal of the outsider give the stories uncommon depth and resonance, whether the author is on a Southern California beach or at a gas station on a road to nowhere. ▼



Baritone John Autry and soprano Peggy Kriha Dye in Handel's *Ezio*.

Ezio

◀ page 43

and security throughout the evening, achieved some dramatic specificity in her final defiance of Emperor Valentinian, and at its best provided a fair Marilyn Horne impersonation.

As Fulvia, Ezio's beloved, Peggy Kriha Dye had the opera's most florid and beautiful music, and she dispatched it conscientiously and with occasional flair. Her lapses in pitch and constricted top often mirrored comparable crises in the pit. Kristin Clayton seemed too busy singing all of Onorio's notes to make music with them.

Baritone John Autry, the evening's most tragic fashion vic-

tim, consistently oversang the role of the Emperor, and as the villain Massimo, tenor Stuart Skelton routinely pushed his voice to the breaking point. In the evening's only truly professional performance, Relyea, as Varo, took charge of his music, the stage, and the venture as a whole at every entrance.

Relyea's splendid performance was not the only clue that there is great music in *Ezio*. As Seattle Opera's joke-laden production of Handel's *Serse* earlier this year also demonstrated, you can't keep a good composer down, and in the moments when Handel could actually be heard through all the interference last week, one detected a masterpiece. Contrary to what SFO might say, the West Coast has yet to hear *Ezio*. ▼

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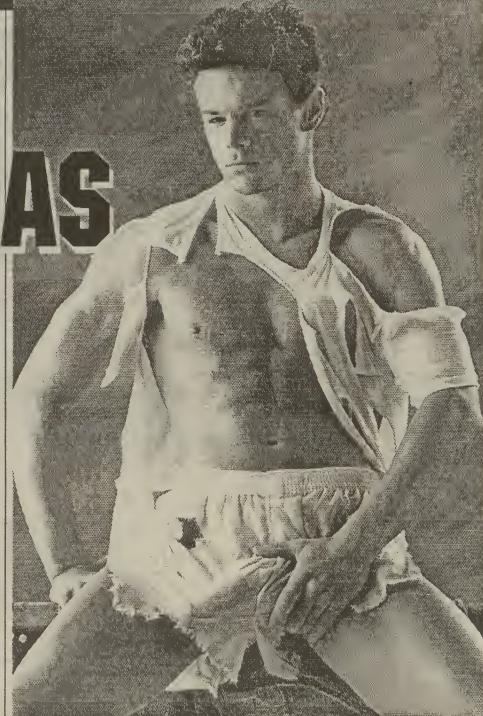
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Susan Nicasas

Mistress Catherine watches over a client at Pandora's Box in *Fetishes*.

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Photo: Dhamber Design Studio

Fetishes

◀ Arts cover

women *dommes* in this scene, she was popular on the circuit, and I listened to her crack her whip on the flesh of an ever-expanding army of men. Later, we'd have a good laugh over who her clients were — mostly white lawyers, doctors, bankers, a department store owner, and others of the moneyed classes.

Her friends became my friends, and most of them were in the scene as either paying submissives or paid dominants. At first, the fantasies were intriguing and egalitarian — from Big Bad Wolf/Little Red Riding Hood scenarios to adult babies to "roman showers" (don't ask), there was something for every taste. But there was also something depressing about it: I'd always thought the lure of the fetish was pleasure, but most of what I saw had a joyless mechanical quality as blows were dutifully meted out and paid for. Unlike the gay S&M scene, which seemed to grow out of a natural dynamic without the need for guilt-drenched secrecy or a furtive monetary payoff, this was commodity fetishism, with the dominants play-acting a role that usually had little to do with their real feelings or lives, and the submissives experiencing a kind of resentful relief.

So it was with special interest that I watched Nick Broomfield's *Fetishes*, a made-for-HBO documentary about the inner workings of Pandora's Box, a Manhattan club that caters exclusively to wealthy submissives. The operator is Mistress Raven, an ex-Long Island housewife who allowed Broomfield to shoot two months' worth of interviews and intimate footage of groveling tricks and commanding dominatrixes. Raven says she's too "burned out" to do sessions herself, but employs a coterie of female sadists who appear in the multiple masks required in the business — stern teacher, aggravated mommy, abusive nurse, blackmailing schoolgirl.

The tricks bring an imaginative assortment of fetishes to Pandora's. A black man plays out a plantation fantasy with heavy verbal abuse. A man with "genocidal" tendencies works out his anxieties by having his head shoved in a toilet and being ridden like a pony through one of Pandora's many chambers. A Jewish doctor requests a Nazi scenario. But not every session goes smoothly, and occasionally a trick "turns." In a screening error that invokes the wrath of Mistress Natasha, a hunky middle-aged guy in boxers suddenly bolts when he realizes she's no female wrestler but a dominant trying to "abuse" him.

Fortunately for Raven and

Pandora's, the tricks bring money, and plenty of it. Sessions start at \$1,000, but as Mistress Catherine says, her "good tricks" will give her \$2,000 to \$4,000 if she asks. The film opens with amusingly archaic footage of Betty Page, in garter belt and bullet bra, engaging in mock-spankings with some of her gal pals. This innocent fakery is supposed to contrast with the literal darkness and authenticity of Pandora's, but in fact it highlights a deeper similarity. Pandora's is, in its way, as phony as Betty Page's spanking; there's something disingenuous about the women's refusal to acknowledge what really drives this business and their involvement: money. These sexual psychodramas are ultimately no more interesting than any other business transaction in a society where a monetary value is attached to everything. The submissives are more forthcoming, but even they don't tell us much we haven't heard before.

The women expound on the dynamics of S&M and their personal passion for it, but scenes of these "mistresses" cruising the Internet looking for dates, or moaning that they haven't "been with a man" in months, tell a far more conventional story. They're actors but can't admit — or don't know — it. Mistress Natasha says, "I get so energetic when I do this," but her interplay with the submissives shows more boredom than anything else. Mistress Catherine's claim of having ten "serious" slaves is undercut in a wistful conversation about her ex-husband and her ability to have a "normal" relationship.

As usual, the truth is revealed by those with the least power in the dynamic, in this case a submissive who bares her soul in a way none of the dominants does. Maria is a rarity at Pandora's, a female masochist who comes to get abused. She works by day as a "professional submissive" to men, a trait she views as an advantage. "I've used this asset to pay my bills," she says with refreshing candor. "It's a wonderful way to make a living."

Broomfield's films seem to work in direct proportion to his own engagement with the material. When the stories are real and even riveting, as in *Aileen Wuornos: The Selling of a Serial Killer*, the effect is powerful. With *Fetishes*, however, the S&M subculture seems too foreign to him to elicit any more insight than one might find on *The Jerry Springer Show*. The final scene of the mistresses comically chasing him through the dungeons confirms this. ▼

Fetishes plays May 9-18 at the Roxie Cinema, 3125 16th Street. Call 431-3611 for info.

BOOKS

Midnight cowboy

by Robert Julian

After Midnight: The Life of Brad Davis by Susan Bluestein Davis with Hilary de Vries; Pocket Books, \$24

After *Midnight* is not the biography of Brad Davis. It is actually Susan Bluestein Davis' memoir about her life with the late actor. Readers will learn more than they ever wanted to know about Mrs. Davis, and considerably less than they deserve to know about Mr. Davis. The narrative suffers from its lack of objectivity and Mrs. Davis' willful ignorance about the life her husband led when he was not in her company.

In penning this memoir, Davis and de Vries have ignored the standard conventions of biographical writing: thorough research and interviews with third parties. Virtually all of the information provided in *After Midnight* comes from Mrs. Davis' personal recollections. Brad Davis died of AIDS in 1991, and the nature of his sexuality remains the subject of much discussion. According to the widow Davis, Brad was neither homosexual nor bisexual; he was "a heterosexual man who had a strong connection to homosexual men." Readers are also told that the allegedly heterosexual Davis, who had an incestuous relationship with his mother until the age of 16, supported himself as a hustler when he first arrived in New York, and lived with a roommate who "earned his livelihood as a transvestite." Mrs. Davis also says that throughout their marriage, "It wasn't unusual for Brad to spend his evenings out, where and with whom I didn't know." But later she contradicts herself by writing that she "knew that the hustling, the sex with men, stopped when Brad and I became involved." What becomes quickly apparent is that Susan Bluestein Davis is the queen of denial.

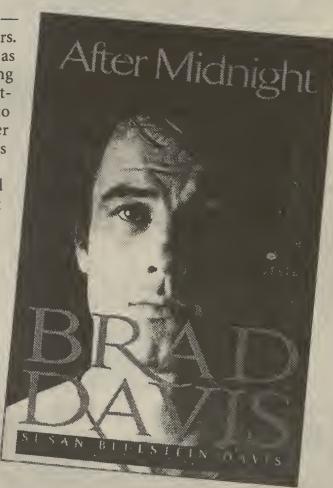
Davis herself admits as much when she describes her method of dealing — or not dealing — with Davis' HIV diagnosis, which came in 1985. It was something she refused to address as she shut herself off from her husband — both sex-

ually and emotionally — for the next several years. Focusing on her career as a Hollywood casting agent, she gave what little time was left over to Alexandra, the daughter born to her and Davis in 1982.

The story of Brad Davis' career is almost stereotypical. He made a splash with the release of *Midnight Express* in 1978, his first film role. This was immediately followed by several years of alcohol and cocaine abuse, promiscuity, and fits of public drunkenness that made him a pariah in Hollywood circles. Although Davis joined Alcoholics Anonymous and dried out in 1981, by this time the career damage was irreversible. The rest of Davis' life is best characterized as a failed struggle for legitimacy as an actor.

Where Davis and de Vries soar is in their description of life in the Davis household after Brad received his HIV diagnosis. The actor embarked on a path of spiritual self-discovery, a path his wife did not appreciate, and he refused medical attention for several years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Davis engaged in an elaborate web of deceit to hide his diagnosis from everyone. Their actions were motivated by a simple fact of Hollywood life: if the world knew Brad Davis was HIV-positive, he would not get work as a film actor. Even when AIDS complications became serious, Davis insisted that his doctor treat him at home and submit lab tests under his birth name, Robert Davis. The Davises even refused to use the health insurance Brad paid for through the Screen Actors' Guild because they were afraid someone reviewing the medical claims would leak word of his condition.

If it is hard to love Brad Davis through his widow's eyes, it is even harder to love the widow. But her actions during Davis' final days inspire respect. Susan Bluestein Davis can at least say with pride that she kept her marriage vows



and stood beside her husband to the end. The last chapters of *After Midnight* are fascinating, and anyone who reads Brad Davis' final letter to his daughter, explaining his own death, will be hardpressed to hold back tears. This is not the serious biography it could have been, and sloppy editing diminishes what little credibility it possesses (the prose shifts back and forth from past to present tense in an awkward and amateurish manner). But as the personal memoir of Susan Bluestein Davis, *After Midnight* probably provides its author with a cathartic sense of completion. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



Ursas Major & Minor, 1997, by Chris Komater, detail from "Night of the Hunter." Lamp, hand-cut paper shade.

Fur & bellies

SArtist Chris Komater says he has been fascinated with the Bear movement for some time, and his multimedia installation *Night of the Hunter: In Pursuit of the Hirsute* now at 509 Cultural Center takes those big hairy men as his inspiration. Komater has created a physical environment "amplifying the physicality and sensuality of the bear," and there's a lot there to amplify. Some of these guys give a whole new meaning to "belly up to the bar."

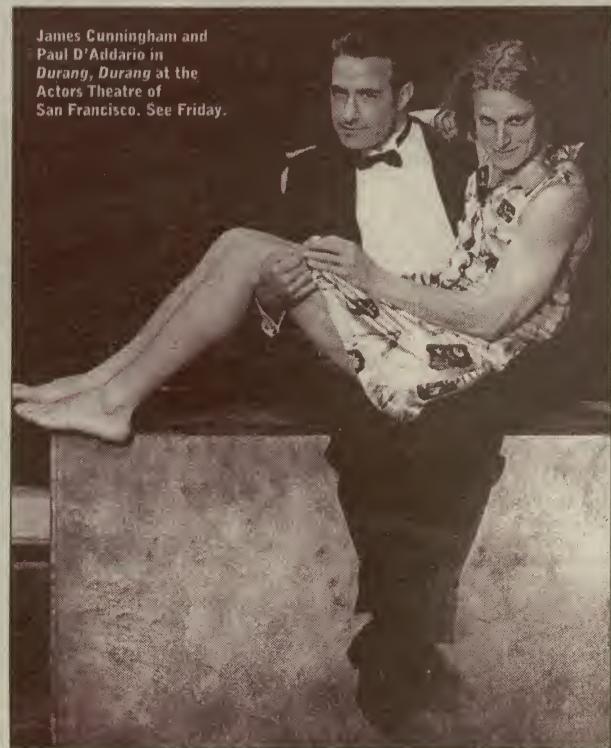
Years ago in our cub reporter days, our clever editor sent us to cover the annual Bear Rendezvous for a human interest piece. What we found there, besides a lot of bear-huggin', moustache-lickin', furry men livin' large, was a movement dedicated to the proposition that you don't have to be a shaved-down, muscled-up, blow-dried prima donna to count as a smoldering sexpot. To be a bear, or a bear-lover, says it loud and proud: all body types are OK.

Komater eroticizes body hair in a big way. Close-up photographs of armpit hair, and curls and wisps other places on the male body, juxtapose with photos of prune plum flowers. Hair pokes out of furniture, and a furry rug covers the floor. A nude hairy man lumbers away from the portrait camera, into the metaphysical forest. The figures of two bears, Big and Little Dipper, grapple in sex on a revolving lampshade which casts their images on the walls in constellations of light.

The artist found his models through an ad on the Internet. Their secondary sexual characteristics are on artful display in this community art space through May. ▼

Night of the Hunter is on exhibit Thurs.-Sat., 12-6pm through May 31, at 509 Cultural Center, 509 Ellis St. Info: 255-5971.

James Cunningham and Paul D'Addario in *Durang, Durang* at the Actors Theatre of San Francisco. See Friday.



Fri

Art on the Front Lines
"Of Healing," artwork by people with life-threatening illness or disability. Reception tonight, 4:30-7pm; Mon.-Fri. thru 6/30, 4th fl., City Hall, 401 Van Ness. 255-3474.

Baby Snatching Dingoes

"Versus the Kamikaze Transvestite Vampyre Tuna," dyke sketch comedy group. Fri.-Sun. thru 5/11, at 8pm. \$8-\$12. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St., #216C. 863-2989.

Caligula

Bleeding Stone Theatre presents *Camus*' tragedy about the mad Roman emperor. Fri. & Sat. thru 5/17 at 8pm. \$12. EXIT Stage Left, 156 Eddy. 267-1812.

Carol Queen

Mini-peep show, reads from *Real Live Nude Girls: Chronicles of Sex-Positive Culture*, free. 7:30pm. Bernal Books, 401 Cortland. 550-0293.

Corky Hale

Pianist, harpist and singer in her SF debut. Tues.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/10. \$15-\$20. Plush Room, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Durang, Durang

Actors Theatre of SF presents six vignettes by playwright Christopher Durang. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 6/14. \$16-\$18. Actors Theatre, 533 Sutter. 296-9179.

Erasure

'80s-identified band performing live, free. 7pm. Virgin Megastore, 2 Stockton. 397-4525.

Felice Picano

Reading from *House on the Ocean*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Four Feelings

Joe Goode Performance Group. Dance theatre, with Everybody Leaves from "The Maverick Strain." 5/9-10, 16-18 at 8pm. \$20. Cowell Theatre, 401 Mason. 392-4400.

Gay Comedy Night

Gay comics on new night. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Grease

Tommy Tune's production, starring Sally Struthers, Adrian Zmed, Mackenzie Phillips. Tues.-Sun. thru 5/11, call for times. \$15-\$25. Tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, Taylor at Market. 776-1999.

Hard-Hatted Women

Editor Molly Martin and tradeswomen contributors to anthology read, free. 7pm. Glen Park Books, 2788 Diamond. 586-3733.

Jesus Christ Superstar

Metropolitan Community Church's production. Fri. & Sat. thru 5/17 at 8pm. \$15. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka.

The Magic Flute

Arias from Mozart's opera, free. Noon. Star Classics Recital Hall, 425 Hayes. 552-1110.

Making Porn

Porn star Ryan Idol in Ronnie Larsen's play about gay porn industry. Wed.-Sun. thru 5/18, call for times. Tonight

Solo Cola, comic monologues by Wayne Doba and Sarah Ellis (pictured) at Bindlestiff Studios. See Friday.



at 8pm. \$25. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

Rocky Horror Superstar

Klubstitute Collective presents Ruby Toosday's spectacle, the Jesus of Frankfurter story. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm extended thru 5/11. \$15. Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St. 339-8113.

Solo Cole

Comic monologues by Wayne Doba, *Don't Be Like Your Father*, and Sarah Ellis, *The Champ* and *Waitress* on PMS. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/31. \$10. Bindlestiff Studios, 185 6th St. 974-1167.

Sonoma Artists

Painter Elena Scott, wood sculptor Ben Britton exhibit. Reception tonight, 7pm. Thurs.-Sat. thru 6/6. Collision Artspace, 419 14th St. 431-4074.

The Sweetest Hangover

"(and other stds)," Ricardo Bracho's play, with Sean San José Blackman, extended thru 5/11. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 4pm. \$12-\$14. Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St. 647-2822.

Wandering Ghost

"Visions of Lafcadio Hearn, Part I," multimedia Theatre of Yugen production. Thurs.-Sun. thru 5/18, call for times. \$12-\$15. Tonight at 8pm. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa. 621-7978.

Wax Trio

Acoustic jazz in the magic garden. \$5, one drink min'm. 8pm. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes.

Wayang Bali

Shadowlight Productions presents traditional Balinese shadow play, free. 8pm. South Park, 2nd St. near Bryant. 648-4541.

What the Butler Saw

Chameleone Theatre Co. in Joe Orton's farce. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/10. \$10. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-6404.

When the World Was Green

"(A Chef's Fable)," collaboration between Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaiklin. Wed.-Sun. thru 5/11, call for times. Tonight at 8:30pm. \$17-\$21. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-8822.

Luminous Things

Artist/writer Steven Key's tiny opera for two women, work-in-progress. \$5-\$10. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

The Magic Flute

Arias from Mozart's opera, free. Noon. Star Classics Recital Hall, 425 Hayes. 552-1110.

Making Porn

Porn star Ryan Idol in Ronnie Larsen's play about gay porn industry. Wed.-Sun. thru 5/18, call for times. Tonight

Anthony Haden-Guest

Reads from *The Last Party*:

Studio 54, Disco, and the Culture of the Night, free.

3:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

The Big Drag

1940s stage noir comedy by

Chris Leader, Sean Owens opens. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 6/7. \$12-\$21. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Garage Sale

Benefits Immune Enhancement Project. 10am-4pm. 3450 16th St., betw. Church & Sanchez.

Lavender Seniors

Group for gays & lesbians over 55 holds potluck. Noon. San Leandro Comm. Church, 1395 Bancroft, San Leandro. (510) 247-2406.

Leather and Lace

Drag show hosted by Tiger Lily. New performers welcome. No cover, two drink min'm. 10pm. Kim's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Lipsink's Greatest Hits

"(The Second Farewell)," musical theater diva's new extravaganza. Tues.-Sun. thru 6/1, call for times. Tonight at 8:30pm. \$18-\$20. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

My Uncle Sam

Rough and Tumble in Len Jenkins' play. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 6/15. \$16-\$20. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 673-1172.

OrchidMania

"World's Largest Orchid Garage Sale," 8th annual AIDS benefit. Sat. & Sun., 10:30am-5pm. Japan Center, Post & Buchanan. 267-4814.

Shanti Reunion

Volunteer alumni reunion, appreciation party. \$10 benefits Shanti. 8pm. Russian Center, 2460 Sutter. 864-2273, x 4741.

Traces of Light

Art auction gala benefits SF Butoh Festival, free admission. 4pm. Vorpahl Gallery, 393 Grove. 674-8174.

Sun

Michael C. Botkin

Show commemorates life and work of journalist & provocateur. Sat. & Sun., 2-5pm thru 5/25. Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, 973 Market, 4th fl. f. 777-5455.

PLAG Mtg.

Support group, 2pm. Mother and daughter speak, 3pm, free. St. Francis, 152 Church. 921-8850.

Visions of Mom

Songs of love and motherhood by Sondheim, Copland, more. \$5. 5pm. Star Classics Recital Hall, 425 Hayes. 552-1110.

Wally Look-Alike Contest

Wally's Mother Contest, Wally's Boy Contest, benefit for AIDS Emergency Fund, 9pm.



Anthony Haden-Guest reads from *The Last Party Saturday at A Different Light*. (At Studio 54, left to right: Elton John, Andy Warhol, Jerry Hall, Barbara Allen, Ahmet Ertegun)

Shanti Project. \$6 beer bust, 3-7pm. Hole in the Wall Saloon, 289 8th St.

Mon

Alec in Wonderland

Reading of Dean Buckus' play, a modern gay spin on the Lewis Carroll classic. \$5. 7pm, 450 Geary Studio Theatre, 673-1172.

Blue Plate Special

Four original vignettes, by Craig Landry, Alison Wright, Charlotte Higgins, and Gigi Gamble. Mondays at 8pm thru 5/19, \$7-10. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 673-7559.

Gay Comedy Open Mike

MC Karen Ripley, aspiring funny performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Gourmet Week

In-store tastings, samplings, oil & vinegar mixing, pasta topping. Mon.-Fri., 5:30-7:30pm. Under One Roof, 2362 Market. 252-9430.

MFA Grad Exhibit

SFSU Art Dept. shows work by nine young artists, thru 5/23. Arts and Industry Bldg., SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-6535.

Wet Wit

"Getting Carried Away with the Flood," photo exhibit of recent natural disaster by Ron Lazar. Thru 5/27. Coffee Bazaar, 14045 Armstrong Woods, Guerneville. (707) 869-9706.

Tues

Assimilation

Photographs by Pipo Nguyen-Duy, thru 5/21. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Espejos de humo

(Smoky mirrors), works on paper by Joel Rendon, Artemio Rodriguez, Jose Galindo, thru 6/15. Polanco Gallery, 393 Hayes. 252-5753.

Fab!

New musical comedy set in the swinging sixties. Tues.-Sun. thru 6/8, call for times. \$28-34. Tonight at 8pm. Alcazar Theatre, 650 Geary. 441-4042.

Heavenly Bodies

Photographs by Richard Misrach, with William Wegman's Lost & Found, thru 6/28. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.

Modernist Nudes

Photographs from the '20s by Frantisek Drtikol. Tues.-Sat. thru 5/24. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Parsons Dance Company

SF debut of acclaimed NY troupe, opens tonight. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sat.&Sun. at 2pm thru 5/25. \$15-33. Marines Mem'l Theatre, 609 Sutter. 771-6900.

Shame

"And other observations," narrative photographs by Stephen J. Alba. Tues.-Sun. thru 5/15. Rayko Gallery, 2423 Polk. 567-9067.

Similar Differences

All-media exhibit addresses gender in art-making. Reception, tonight, 5-30pm, \$3. Thurs 5/31. SOMAR Gallery, 934 Brannan. 552-2131.

Stitch and Bitch

Sewing and knitting group, Tues. at 6pm. C.H.A.M.P., 194 Church. 861-1040.

Xena Night

Warrior princess on two screens, free. 8pm. Chat House, 139 8th St. 255-8783.

Wed

Brian Grillo

HIV+ vocalist of Extra Fancy discusses refusing AIDS drug therapies. HEAL mtg., free. 7pm. Park Branch Library, 1833 Page. 441-0685.

Going, Going, GONE

Director Anne Bogart and Saratoga Internat'l Theater

Institute Company in West Coast premiere. Wed.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 5/18. \$20. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-8822.

Great Brits

Exhibit of creative British influences on SF performing arts. Thurs 6/14. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Jay DeFeo

"Works, 1952-89," first major exhibition of late Bay Area artist, thru 5/25. Berkeley Art Museum, 2625 Durant, Berkeley. (510) 642-0808. Also: "Jay DeFeo: The Florence View and Related Work" exhibit, thru 6/1. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2556.

Palpitations

Keith Hennessy revisits love songs, prayers, gestures.

Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/17. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Singer's Boy

Olympia Dukakis in ACT's production of Leslie Ayvazian's comic fable. Tues.-Sun. thru 6/1, call for times. \$19-47.50. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

Streisand Look-Alike

Contest, with Anne Edwards reading new Barbra bio, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Survival System Train

Sculpture by Kenji Yanobe on exhibit; also, Pepón Osorio's Badge of Honor and Organically Grown works, Tues.

Sun. thru 6/1. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Thur

Dalliance

Shotgun Players present Tom Stoppard's adaptation of Arthur Schnitzler's play Liebestraume. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, thru 5/31. \$8-10. La Val's Subterranean Theater, 1834 Euclid, Berkeley. (510) 716-9082.

The Feast of St. Dymphna

SoLo works and party dealing with insanity. \$6-10. 7:30pm. Shotwell Studios, 3252 A 19th St. 386-6292.

Fotos Verboten!

Exhibition of homoerotic photographs by Greg Day, thru 6/30. Blow Buddies, 933 Harrison.

Palpitations

Absurdist comedy about friendship and fear in age of AIDS. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/17. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Night of the Hunter

"In Pursuit of the Hirsute," photos & sculpture by Chris Komater. Thurs.-Sat., 12-6pm thru 5/31. 509 Cultural Center, 509 Ellis. 255-5971.

Praise and Punishment Show

Fratelli Bologna in evening of competitive improv. Thurs. at 8pm thru 5/29. \$10. Bayfront Theatre, Bldg. B, Fort Mason. 285-4328.

Shear Madness

Whodunit set in unisex hair-styling salon opens. Tues.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$28-32. Mason Street Theatre, 430 Mason. 982-5463.

Strip! Bare-ly Legal

Interactive theatre experience set at a male strip club. Thurs.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$30-40. Rococo Showplace, 165 10th St. 392-4400.

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This Week's Dinner Specials



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Drums along the sashwalk

by Mister Marcus

The leather world is avidly awaiting IML in Chicago in just two weeks, but even as you read this, the march toward International Mr. Drummer (Saturday, Sept. 27, in San Francisco) is very much in progress. First out of the gate, Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer will be chosen at the Dallas Eagle on Saturday, May 17. New sponsor for 1997, Mark Frazier (also the co-owner of the Dallas Eagle), promises another smashing event with this year's production.

From there on, the schedule at my deadline reads as follows: Mr. Southeast Drummer in Atlanta on June 15, Mr. Northeast Drummer at the Lure in New York on June 27, Mr. Mid-Atlantic Drummer in Baltimore on July 12 and Mr. Southern California Drummer in Los Angeles on July 26.

Mr. Rocky Mountain Drummer gets combined with the Southwest Drummer region on August 2, and the same night is the Mr. New England Drummer contest in Boston. Ed Ivey sponsors Mr. Florida Drummer in Fort Lauderdale on August 9, and the next weekend (August 16), the Mr. Northern California Drummer contest will take place at the SF-Eagle. A week later (August 23), Mr. Great Lakes Drummer will be staged in Columbus, Ohio, and the final regional competition, Mr. Great Plains Drummer, moves to St. Louis on September 6. Combined with the above 11 regions plus Mr. Drummer Europe, there will be a total of 12 men vying for the title. Again, at my deadline, there have been no contests scheduled at all in Canada. It should be an interesting year.

This past weekend, the first city Mr. Drummer title contest took place at the Wreck Room in Sacramento. Mr. Sacramento Drummer '96 David "Spanky" Moore succeeded in raising beaucoup bucks for the Fairy Godmother Fund in Sacto. There were three contestants (Michael Butler, John Anthony and Jason Moore), who were



Intl. Mr. Drummer Kyle Brandon (l) congratulates American Leatherman '97 Jim Raymond in Washington, D.C., on April 27.

judged by Duchess Brandy XVII, Jesse Morales, "Spike," Bill Whittington and Taurus Webster.

They didn't do fantasies. Instead, a hog-calling sequence was added to the hilarity. The Sacramento Gay Men's Choir performed, and at 0100, the winners were announced: Mr. Sacramento Drummer is Mike Butler, and the runner-up was John Anthony. Mike will compete in the Mr. Northern California Drummer competition in August.

There will also be Mr. Alameda County Drummer, Mr. San Jose Drummer and Mr. San Francisco Drummer. At my deadline, the Mr. San Francisco Drummer contest is scheduled to take place at Daddy's on Wednesday, July 23.

The Northern California Drummer Boy contest will be held at Greg's Ballroom in San Jose on Saturday, September 6.

All the details for International Mr. Drummer '97 have not yet been worked out, including the judges, VIP package prices and the venue. As soon as this year's coordinator, Robert Davolt, divulges the facts, you'll be the first to know. Tickets for the International Mr. Drummer '97 contest only—repeat, *contest only*—go on sale June 1 at \$25 and can be charged to your Visa, Mastercard or AmEx by calling (415) 974-6020.

There was a lot of activity here centered around the Cinco de Mayo celebration, including the big fiesta in Civic Center. Plus the Cal Eagles MC staged its annual Cinco de Mayo beer bust at the Eagle last Sunday and enjoyed a



The entire Eagle staff gathered for this annual photo marking the bar's 16th anniversary on April 21-22.

LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, May 8

Butt-rageous contest at Daddy's, 2000-2300, with raffle tix, prizes, etc. to benefit AEF.

STD checkups at 933 Harrison (upstairs) courtesy of Blow Buddies and the SF Health Dept.

Big Basket contest at The Edge tonight. Win cash, photo session and see a display of pulsing male pulchritude.

Friday, May 9

Mr. Northern California Drummer and Drummer Boy Taurus Webster and Jon Ayers host a benefit beer bust (2100-midnight) for IML '95 Larry Everett, who suffered major losses in a fire that wiped out his home. Taurus has imported the hottest DJ in California, John Collazo from San Diego, to spin. Special appearances by IML '90 Mark Ryan, IML '92 Lenny Broberg and IML '93 Jeff Tucker. Lots of great items will go on the auction block. Don't miss this one!

Weekend, May 10-11

Cal Eagles MC overnight run to Morro Bay via Hwy. 1, leaving Daddy's at 0830 Saturday morning. Motel rates \$55-\$75. Call 267-0560 or e-mail to CalEagles@aol.com.

Saturday, May 10

Bike christening at SF-Eagle, 1500-1800. Deadline is Friday, May 9; call 626-0880 or fax to 626-6509. Get a framed plaque commemorating

the event and a spot on the Hall of Fame plaque.

"Ripped," a women's torn jeans contest at the Turf Club in Hayward at 1500, with a \$6 beer bust, auction and 50/50 drawing, benefits the Lambda Youth Gay Prom.

Sunday, May 11

It's Mother's Day, and the Constantines MC — the biggest mothers around — host the beer bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, \$8, with raffles. The grand prize is two tickets to that club's 30th anniversary weekend-run "Gold Diggers" event, August 15-17.

Thursday, May 15

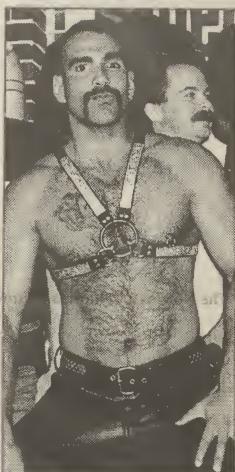
Choosing Mr. October '98 on the BCC tonight at 2200. Win \$100, fame and benefit the AEF. Judges: Bay Area Reporter editor Mike Salinas, his father Rick Salinas and Audrey Joseph. It should be a very funny night!

Constantines MC beer bust at Daddy's, \$7, 2000-2300, with a 50/50 raffle benefiting Rita Rockett brunches.

Saturday, May 17

The Phoenix Uniform Club celebrates its 20th anniversary on the Eagle patio, 1800-2100. Entry by invitation or your club overlay. Congratulations to a great group!

Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer contest at the Dallas Eagle at 1800 for someone to follow Don Woods' year with the title.



Victor Magide, a former American Leatherman winner, represents Miami for the first time in Chicago at IML.



American Leatherman finalists: Darryl Flick, first runner-up; Jim Raymond, winner; and the sexy Mufasa, second runner-up.

Out There

◀ page 35

could be very interesting. But wait, what's this? Madonna wants to play the part of Sellers' former wife, actress **Britt Ekland**? Lewis has reportedly given his blessing to the project, and he and Madonna are having regular meetings to discuss who could play Sellers. We hear the short list of actors being considered for the part includes **Jeff Goldblum** and **Michael Keaton**. Sorry, but we just can't see it. Both performers' screen personas are simply too nice. Sellers was, after all, a drunken wife-beater. He was so vicious, in fact, that he once beat Ekland black-and-blue with the splintery remains of a chair he'd hurled across the room in one of his drunken rages. Sounds like a perfect role for **Val Kilmer**.

Blood and urine cocktail

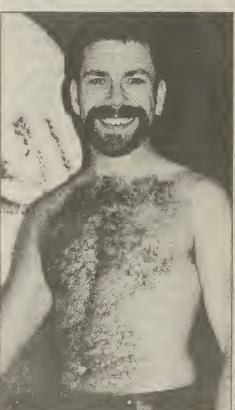
The *SF Chronicle* came very close to telling readers why people were nearly blowing chunks at **Jack Davis'** birthday bash last Saturday at the San Francisco Mart on Market & Ninth streets, but even those hardened gazetteers blanched at printing such unmitigated putridity. Of course we at Out There have no principles, so we'll tell you what the *Chronicle* didn't. That nice little S&M bondage routine that involved a leatherman getting a star carved into his back by a *domme* and then being urinated upon, ended with the dominatrix drinking the urine and the blood. The *Chronicle's* **Matier and Ross** said they wouldn't dare print some-

thing like that in a "family newspaper," but for the life of us we can't figure out why not. After all, the *Chronicle* prints Octavio Roca's dance reviews.

Mom of Finland

Of course when it comes to making people sick at a party, **Greg Taylor** has no competition. Last year, Taylor made Pithy vomit all over herself when, at one of his shindigs, he locked Pithy in a bathroom full of pink and green splotches — Day-Glo **rubber cats** with gigantic grins, long necks, and revolting eyes — and piped in his favorite **Dean Martin** tunes. Pithy has never been the same since. But, despite her vertigo at the mere mention of Taylor's name, she plans on going to his annual Mother's Day bash Saturday (May 10, 10 p.m.) at the Castro Station, a place Taylor lovingly refers to as "the living history museum."

No, this is not a joke. Each year Greg invites his darling mother, **Mary Frances**, and her sister, **Aunt Kitty**, down from Spokane to celebrate this special day in style. Last year's party was held at the Embers Club out in the Avenues. The theme that night was "clown kitsch," and everyone came dressed as their favorite buffoon, joker, or jackanape. This year's bash is a Mom of Finland party, and Taylor is hoping guests will come dressed in the appropriate TOF fashions. "Mom will be wearing leather, wig, and sunglasses," Taylor enthuses. Greg himself threatens to be on a leash. Co-promoters **Jism Jeff** and **Ivana** promise a fab time will be had by all. ▼



Andy Shore of Mountain View won the Mr. September '98 spot on the BCC May 1 at the Eagle.

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PARTING GLANCES

Phantom Of The Opera Tues. 4/8
After the show you gave me two thumbs up. Tried to find you outside. Really wish we'd talked. Please call. ☎ 5901.

Pasta Pomodoro 4/3 6ish
You sitting by window I was walking by. You were extremely handsome and wearing blue T-shirt. Me: USC hat. Would like to meet you. ☎ 5902.

4/12 Len From San Jose & Virginia
You were looking 4 places to live in Guerneville. Came into the park I manage in Ford Explorer. Gave you my card. Willing to travel to see you again, can't get you off my mind. ☎ 5903.

4/3 Van Ness/California
You: blond, well dressed, walking towards Polk. Me: tall, brown hair, multi-colored sweater, blue pants, boarding #1 Cal. We waved good-bye. Wanna meet? ☎ 5904.

Mitch At The Symphony Wed 4/9
You're with a non-profit land preservation agency. We visited at Orchestra Left before the concert at Davies Symphony Hall. Please call. Want to add a postscript to our conversation. ☎ 5905.

4/22 Woolworth Market & Powell
You: WM buying water. Me: BM in uniform being a secret. We talked about being a SF native, you had a beautiful smile, loved the 2nd glance. Would love to meet again! ☎ 6102.

Sunday 4/27 On Corbett Ave
Me: older but "young at heart" lesbian walking up Corbett. You: on the other side, cute with friendly smile when I crossed the street we continue to "glance" at each other. H!! ☎ 6105.

ExtrABBAganza Sat 4/19
Balcony, sec. 5, row C. Sat next to you. Kinded about the headress and seeing you at the next concert, let's make it sooner. I'd like to get acquainted. John. ☎ 6002.

Carta Sun 4/20
Me: music, GBM, yellow shirt w/white friend. You: GWM, blue shirt, dark sports coat. We glanced at each other as you left. How about dinner? ☎ 6001.

Mack Sat 4/29
You: red shirt, black leather vest, full beard, great hairy chest. We talked out on the top deck, too crowded/busy inside, we both wanted quality one-on-one time together. Let's do it. ☎ 6003.

Same Baggage-Different Colors
Detour 4/20, I'm still waiting for your last question. I'm working with friend Art—Remember where? Stop by or call here. Discrete. ☎ 6004.

Ian In The Rain, Fri 4/18
You: jeans, t-shirt, nice tats. Hiding from rain at auto garage. Me: jeans, leather jacket, B-ball cap. We in leather shop at Sanchez. Let's do coffee & talk. Date? ☎ 6005.

Daddy's Bar 4/25 Fri.
You: "Billy" from Rhode Island, who was looking great in red. Me: Michael, who thought about you all weekend. ☎ 6101.

Misssed Stop On Muni
You: were headed outbound to Church, turned around to go downtown. Dark hair, beautiful eyes, dressed in muted colors. Followed me onto train. Let's meet and talk. ☎ 6103.

CA Pacific Med Center 4/25 5PM
You: feeding parking meter, wearing, khaki shorts, white shirt, sexy mustache and terrific smile. Me: black jeans, white T-shirt and splint on hand, late for physical therapy. Want to talk? ☎ 6104.

Wed. 4/23, 8AM. Castro Bus Stop
Saw you at bus stop at Walgreens, 18th/Castro. You: big guy, goatie. Me: 6ft, goatie, later waved from my car. Wanted to stop but had to go. ☎ 6106.

Seeking Macho Men
Goodlooking GWM, 40, 6ft., 187 lbs. and HIV+, seeks goodlooking macho men for good times, and more. I have dark hair, mustache, blue eyes & smooth body. Tattoos a plus. Men 25-40 give me a call. NS/ND, light drinker. ☎ 5906.

Chinese/Japanese Man Sought By German GWM, 45, 5'9", 155#, HIV+, blue eyes. I like the outdoors, tennis, gym, concerts, books, travel, romantic dinners and lots of cuddling. You too? I'd love to meet you. ☎ 5907.

Sexual Healing
GBM, top, prof, 40's, ISO GWM bottom, 50 yrs or above who's physically & emotionally available to pursue a LTR. I'm a lite smoker & drinker. You must be medium to stocky built. ☎ 5913.

Attractive Latino 26 HIV+
I'm 5'7", 165#, muscular, clean cut, student. Into natural sex, movies, and travelling. Seeking Latinas or whites under 35. Prefer NS and broad minded. ☎ 5909.

Hil Nature Lovers
HIV+, WM, 32, 170#, sense of humor, attractive, hazel eyes, healthy, masculine. Into beaches, hiking, camping, tennis, rollerblading, Meditation, Tribal drumming. You: masculine, spiritual, 25-35, healthy, loves nature w/a good heart, all races. ☎ 6121.

Kinky Romantic
38 year old HIV+, bottom/versatile, into heavy leather & rubber. Into many forms of kink. Also into affection, cuddling, and romance. Seeking HIV+, top/versatile, 30's to 40's. Into the same things. Let's explore kinky and romantic sides. ☎ 6010.

Needed 1 Prince Charming
GWM, 6'5", blind/blue, 40, seeks African American Prince for romance, movies, music, more. Must be sweet & sincere and looking for same. ☎ 5917.

Black Man Short Natural
Dreds, beard, HIV-, 40, 6'1", 170, seeks friends. Music teacher, masseur and gardener. NS/ND/No drugs. Vegetarian. Into occult & spiritual practices & very simple living. I live in the mountains of Mendocino county. I visit Bay area often, not looking for sex buddy. ☎ 5918.

Master & Biker?
Young man seeks guidance, training, companionship and love. I offer myself, complete loyalty. Obedience and affection. Sex positive, leather biker oriented. Masculine, hairy preferred. Please no clean-cut guys. Thank you. ☎ 5919.

Complete Package
East Bay GWM, 51, blond/blue, beard, ISO compatible mate to share garden home and lifestyle. Versatile top, hung, HIV+, prefers Mediterranean submissive mature versatile/bottom. ☎ 5920.

Uncut Latin Plus Love Fingers
My long delicious, foreskin, hung, fat, juicy dick wants dedicated oralist. I have hungry long tongue for big hairy ass and love fingers for you HIV-. ☎ 5921.

New To SF, Seeking GAM or GHM
GWM, 40, 170, 5'10", masculine, handsome, adventurous, unpretentious. Into travel, outdoors, film. Seeking monogamous relationship or friendship. Be 30+, smart. Am HIV+, asymptotic, working, healthy. Your status irrelevant. ☎ 5922.

Broker/Banker/Candlestick Maker
Bl/bl, 5'9", 160, 42 ch/30 w, boyishly cute WASP, diverse, (Faust to football), traveled, mature, top drawer. Seeks GWM executive-type, 35-45, handsome, fit, genuine, masculine, DDF. For dating/LTR serious only. ☎ 6006.

Suit Tie Kind-of-Guy
PGWM, 43, 5'9", 168#, br;br, attractive HIV-, athletic, outgoing, lots of interests, seeks LTR with man, 35-50, who has a life. ☎ 6007.

Ken Doll Craves Teddy Bear
Healthy PoZ babe seeks sweet bear top to play with and cherish. UB a honey, over 40, in SF and into a doll of your own. (Call now!) ☎ 6008.

Intelligent, Adventurous GWM
Me: 31, 5'9", 160, fit into travel, cooking, reading, photography, foreign films. You: attractive and intelligent GWM or GLM, under 30, interested in friendship and possible romance. ☎ 6009.

Hot Man
Seeks sizzling boy. WM, 5'11", 165#, wants LTR with Asian, Latino, 25-35, short, slim, must speak fluent English. Dinners, movies, dancing, travel, like cats, 60-70's music. NS/ND, light drinker OK. ☎ 6011.

Romantically Inclined
Attractive GWM, 40's, 5'10", 165#, HIV-, seeking quality times with cute, hung Asian men, 30's-40's. Enjoy quiet intimate times. I'm affectionate, romantic, sexually versatile. ☎ 6012.

I Could Write A Book!
Tired of phony California attitude? HIV+, 5'11", 140 lbs., mustache, sense of humor, good heart, spiritual. Health & mind getting better. Seeks friends or?? Please be sincere!!! ☎ 6013.

Are You The One
Who can unleash my hidden desires? GWM, 33, 5'10", 167, br;br, seeks attractive, romantic, GLM that has the key to unlocking the hidden desires within me! Are you the one? ☎ 6014.

Spanish French Gays
Seeking to make real friends. Meet my friends as well in San Francisco. Little or no English OK. Ages 24-40. Kindly call. ☎ 6016.

To Avoid My Fucking Problem
I suck you off first, thus getting to savor and swallow your full load. Then you're welcome to fuck away, shooting your cum where who can tell what little left. ☎ 6017.

Explore The Limits??
Attractive, GWM, 35, 6', 150#, uncult, blue eyes, blondish hair, well educated, "quasi-professional" ISO fun, adventurous men, 30-40. ND/NS/No prozac. I'm mostly top, but will explore. ☎ 6018.

Someone To Wake Up To
Easy-going, independent AM, 30, 5'6", 165#, looking to meet men, 25-35, for dating leading to monogamous romance. Likes: tennis, long walks, short stories, hanging out w/friends, quiet evenings home. ☎ 5916.

Big Black Male Looking For A Special Friend
To enjoy walks by the bay and spending romantic time together. I enjoy working out. I'm 275#, 5'11", 23, call me. ☎ 6107.

Hearty Affection 2 Humor 4 LTC
I'm 46 yo, HIV+, GWM, 6', 180#, bottom. I'm friendly, caring, have varied interests, normal looks & body. LTR not necessarily lived in. Any race welcome. ☎ 6108.

Smooth Seeks Hairy/Stocky Man
GWM, 33, 155#, 5'10", blind/gm, stache, fair skin, gym toned, 7". Like: CW/Disco dancing, Sci-fi, movies, computers, leather, exploring new ideas, nature. Let's meet and let our inner-child play. ☎ 5919.

Enduring Affection
Everyone loves candlelight dinners and walks on the beach, me too. I'm a top with a strong character who is looking for a loyal bottom for a relationship of enduring affection. ☎ 6110.

Seeking Friend To Play With
Me: 27, GWM seeking a friend to share fun times and sensual joy with. You: 25, honest and friendly. Muscles or experience not required. ☎ 6111.

Big Bear Wants Hibernating Partner
To share cave away from bars, baths, parks & bookstores. Alone, together, a day at a time. Never had a relationship, great cockslucker thought. I'm 6'4", 300#, HIV+, 41, Italian, have BA/Drama. ☎ 6112.

I've Set My Goals
A million \$ in sales, eradicating HIV from my body, settling down. Big muscular, handsome daddy, versatile bottom, seeks loving man to cuddle, kiss and share my life. Be spiritual NS/ND. ☎ 6113.

HIV+ Master 6'3" 195 7.5X6 51
Seeks LTR with young (under 35), hung, in shape, smooth/shaved, slave into discipline, whipping, flogging, spanking, CBT/T/T, leather, CW, videos, gym, NS/ND/ND, monogamous, self supporting, call now boy. ☎ 6114.

Fit, Friendly, Professional
Indian GM (30, 5'10", 174#) ISO sincere, intelligent, interesting GM, 25-35. My hobbies: swimming, walking, movies, reading and music. ☎ 6115.

JR. Officer Seeks CPT Picard
GWM, 34, pos, rd hair, bl eyes, 5'11", 170#, healthy, hiking, biking, cooking, quiet times, nights out. U: sim to 55, smoke, LD OK. ☎ 6116.

Goated Redhead
Seeks goated dark-haired guy for one-nighter, romantic fling, LTR or whatever moves us. I'm 32, 185#, 6', neg, very intelligent, soft-hearted. You're slim, 30ish, neg, thinker. ☎ 6117.

Bik Prefers Hisp & Asians
I'm 24, 5'10", 160#, masc, shaved head, handsome, nice body, looking to meet cute, in shape guys, 18-27, for friendship. ☎ 6118.

Expert Cock sucker
Senior GWM, 5'7", 130#, begs to worship masc, verbal topman, over 40, wet proportion. Cau or Asian. ☎ 6119.

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino, 21, 5'7", 150#, HIV-, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, looking for GWM for friendship or maybe more between 25-37 years. Enjoy quality of life. Call me. ☎ 6120.

I Think This Is A Way To Find
The dream of your life. The chances are 50/50. Attractive European (30, 6') is searching through this ad for the soulmate who is somewhere out there. Let's find out. ☎ 6122.

Handsome Muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2", 185#, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times. Seeks another HIV+, extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. S 6123.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

To Savor/Swallow Your Load(s)
Is my reward for sucking you off good. Uncut great; hard all we need. I'm a size queen for loads, not dicks. Load wise, less ain't more—only more is more! ☎ 5923.

Krakatoa?Evensius?Mt. St Helen
Geo-eruptions are an awesome sight! Shoot your personal best after incredible oral service from the local volcano maker. Specs: GWM/bot-tomless throat/6/170/40s/goatee/hair-challenged/smooth and nice too. Leave your lava here. ☎ 5924.

19 YO Blond Bottom
Soccer player, great legs & ass, cute face, cute smooth freckled body, ISO older 35-55 Macho Muscle Dudes. Gang bang? Call me. ☎ 5925.

Older Seeks Younger Skinny Boys
Me: smooth, 6'7", 260, GWM, lean & clean. You dig getting big loads sucked off and are ticklish kid boy. Me: same seeking playmates. ☎ 5926.

Special Person Seeks Same
For ongoing sexually intimate times. I'm 73, 5'7", 165#, and you are 18-40, who prefers being with an attr. more mature romantic man. ☎ 5927.

Submissive Boy Will Serve You!
Seeking dominant stud to use me for your pleasure. Love to be fucked and forced to service you. Love leather & uniforms. Blacks, Latinos & Italians are a plus. ☎ 5928.

Hole Seeks Pole
GWM, 29, 5'9", 180#, bin/blu, submissive bottom needs top to eat & plow my hairy bubble butt. I love to suck cock. Your place, we bot HIV-. ☎ 5929.

Serious Bareback Fuckers
If you want a hot, juicy & wet cum fuck w/a well fucked ass. I on 1 or grps...GBM, 39, 5'11", 146#, goatee, shaved head. ISO men ht/wt prop. masc & serious only. Call now. ☎ 5930.

Lay Back And Enjoy
Attractive GWM, 40's, HIV-, 5'10", 163#, seeks GWM, 50 to 65, to lay back and have long mad to his big dick, 7 1/2" to 9", for pleasure. The best you will ever have! ☎ 5931.

Playful Fun And Games!
Handsome Asian bodybuilder w/defined muscular physique, smooth skin needs expert mouth, responsive ass 4 his pleasure. Want to get tied up & used sensuously, mercilessly! Open to other game ideas! You: adventurous, eager, and cute. ☎ 5932.

Love Dominant Tops
GWM, 41, 6', 165#, seeks men any race, age & size for sex, especially long time fucking. Yours for pleasure. ☎ 5933.

East Bay 54 YO Lkng For A Daddy
This 54 yr old is looking for a older Daddy. I'm 5'8", 160#, brn hair, blue eyes w/7" dick. Wants to be in your arms tonight. ☎ 5934.

GBM ISO WM 35+ To Service
Attractive GWM, 40's, East Bay seeks WM, gay, straight, let me use my mouth on your body, feet first. Have foot fetish. Tall/big feet A+. Reciprocation unnecessary. Maybe LTR. ☎ 5935.

Your Dick In My Mouth No Teeth
No scraping, nothing sharp. Just a smooth throat for your pleasure (and mine) way cool clean & healthy GWM, mas seek same. Size isn't important. ☎ 5936.

ISO: A Beautiful Drag Queen
Two, well-mannered 7 handsome men (31 & 43) looking for a beautiful & sophisticated drag queen to take out on the town. ☎ 5938.

Seeking Flogger
Seeking friendly playmate who likes to role-play and administer light to moderate flogging. ☎ 5939.

Still Looking For The Right Man
Handsome Italian man, 40, hairy, hung, top in LTR, needs more sex. Seeking a GWM, 30-45, versatile, hairy & in shape. If you responded before, pls try again. ☎ 5940.

A Few You...
Black, 6'3"-6'6", 30yrs+, height/weight proportionate, aggressive, dominant top. Looking for an attractive, experienced Latin bottom boy? I'm 5'6", 135#, young looking 40y. Into BD, very verbal. No SM. ☎ 5941.

GWM/35/6'7"/195/Healthy/HIV+
Crewcut, stache, bottomish. Into landscaping, Southern-style cooking, guitar, dating. Looking for GWM, 35-45, tippish. Not necessarily my height, but ht/wt proportionate. No leather queens & tweakers. Facial hair a plus. ☎ 6015.

2 Blond Caped Crusaders Seek
Under the covers action. One large handgun and one tight holster looking for a shoot-out with similar equipment. ☎ 6019.

Hot Nasty Boys Only
4 long intense fuck sessions. UB 25-35 yo, GWM/GLM, good shape, clean shaven face, like gettin' it! Me: 40yo, top, good shape, 5'6", 145#, hot sex! ☎ 6020.

On Your Knees, Suck Boy
WM, 40's, HIV-, average build varia needs regular obedient head at your SF place. You are HIV-, healthy, slim, or muscular, hungry deep throat, cum lover into taking orders. ☎ 6021.

Mature Submissive Sks Younger WM, 50, 6', 190, submissive, seeks younger, hairy, pref. balding/buzzed, HIV+, who enjoys the companionship of an older man. Seek connection/dating. ☎ 6022.

Cock Suckers 40-60
Cum suck our big dicks: hot couple, GWM, 40ish, wants masculine GWMs over 40. We're HIV-, non-smokers, U2B. Love men with thick bushes, stashes, to suck too. ☎ 6023.

Sex In The Sun
HIV+, attractive, sexy, masculine, 30's. Seeking sunny, private, outdoor area to heat up and have uninhibited sex. Weekdays only. Age, ethnicity, country, unimportant. Serious only please. Pool a plus. ☎ 6024.

Weekday Play
Attractive, HIV+, 30's, tall, really into tit play, role playing, JO, games. You be 35-50, fun, imaginative. Decent shape, drug free. Tell me your daytime fantasy. ☎ 6025.

A1 Oral Service Delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to guys dg getting sucked off. Prefer trim, mature, no reciprocation. ☎ 6026.

Beautiful Cock
Seeks Asian admirer. GWM, 35, 6'2", 165, fit, youthful, energetic, aggressive, playful, top. Be slim, cute, smooth, eager to please. I will teach you. ☎ 6027.

Frat Muscles/ocks/18-22? WAh?
Str8/curlous mas, bi/gay WMs party now! 1st time welcum, explore fantasies! ☎ 6028.

Masculine Bottom Seeks Top
GWM, 41, 6', 165#, muscular, brown hair/eyes, HIV+, seeks butch top, under 40, with big dick for heavy & hard fucking, muscle Dads welcome. Race unimportant. ☎ 6029.

Cigarette Smokers!
27 yr old, blue eyed boy wants to service one hot Marlboro man on a regular basis. I'm 5'10", 155#, smooth. Please be masculine w/dark hair & eyes. ☎ 6030.

Enema And/or Spanking
37 up, GWM seeks guys to receive enema and/or bare butt spankings. You be 18-33, fit and trim, enjoy butt play/massage. ☎ 6031.

Hunku Dad Sought
Very well-built butch boy seeks handsome, masculine, hot top Dad for sweaty sessions and more. Seeking HIV-. I am, butch, muscled, great-looking Dad. Am eager to please and learn. ☎ 6032.

I Want Sex
Anonymous, oral, masculine, hung, body odor. ☎ 6033.

Afternoon Bottom Wanted
I want to look, touch, massage, tickle, probe, spank and screw your butt. Me: attrac, GWM, 47, 6'5", 250#, husky build, brown hair, mustache, hairy chest, stomach. You: attrac, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate body hair. ☎ 6034.

Wntd GWM/GWC Leather Tops
By an exp GWM, 26, 6'6", 210#, slave ISO ass, ass pounding top to serve and please for prolonged ass pounding & face fucking, slave like 3 ways, spanking, tops titplay & more. ☎ 6126.

Ride On My Bushy Mustache
And feel my long tongue up your hot butt. Me: 6', 165#, brn/blu, 37. You: hot and ready. ☎ 6035.

Jockstrapped Facsitter
5'10", 160, very nice dick & balls, works out, but butt, 41, into squatting on a guy's face. You: long tongue, eager, in shape, under 35. ☎ 6036.

Chubby/Over-Weight Top?
Small/medium hung? Like to work on submissive mature GWM, demonstrating your top form? Expert, tenner butt-master? HIV- anises for HIV- playmate. Don't hesitate! ☎ 6037.

Love Dominant Tops
GWM bottom seeks men any race and age for sex, especially long time fucking your s for pleasure. ☎ 6038.

Over 50 WM Gum Job Wanted
WM, 44, 5'10", 165#, brn/blu, med, blu, smoker, HIV-, TX5 1/2 cut cockring meat, kicks back for endurance deep throater. I will come to your service only. Be hungry. ☎ 6039.

Endowed And Proud?
Would you like an enthusiastic bottom admirer to help you honor and satisfy it? I'm slim, fit, GWM, 52, we are both HIV+, and you are any race and ready. ☎ 6040.

Not Leather Bear FF Top
GWM, 38, 6'3", beard/hairy, large hands, safe/sane, friendly & patient. Gives great massage inside 7 outside, your place SF or my playroom SJ. 3 ways, groups OK. Serious only. ☎ 6041.

2 Horny & Hot Guys Desire...
Big Cock, tight butt, deep throat. 2 of 3 gets you 2 hot blondest with a full menu of delights. 20-40 yo. ☎ 6042.

Man Pussy Needs Thin Wiry Type
To fuck my slick wet man-cunt with big white cock and fill me with man juice. GWM, 39, 6', 165#, HIV+, German/Italian, brown/hazel, goatee. ☎ 6124.

FF Bottom/Top
30's GWM, HIV-, IS0, playsmates for FF/GWM and move, PA's tattoos. Hairy are pluse for fun or more. ☎ 6125.

Adventurous?
I walk in your house, find you sleeping naked with your butt up. I grease you up, fuck you real good. Be under 35, weight prop, to height, any race. ☎ 6127.

Daytime Ecstasy 4 One Or More
Hot bottom, 35, blu, goodlooking tight butt, deep throat sks well hung studs to work it soon! ☎ 6128.

Big Hefty Men Into Dildos
Handsome GWM, 43yo, 5'11", 240#, sees other big men my size or bigger into dildo play. Must be discreet, your place during the day. ☎ 6129.

Oral Service Required
40yrs, 5'9", blond/blu, 8 inches, HIV-, seeks young, handsome man to perform service on regular basis. ☎ 6130.

Insatiable Bottom
Smooth, tanned, goodlooking Asian boy, 35, 5'8", 160#, wants your fingers, cock & fist up his ass, but not necessarily in that order. ☎ 6131.

Bottom Trapped In Top's Body
Handsome GM, 31, 6', 195#, gym enhanced smooth swimmer's build, 33" w, 44" c, 8" cut, cin shaved. ISO hum aggressive tops, 25-40, weight prop to height, uncut a plus. I'm adventurous U2. No BS. ☎ 6140.

Pull Down Yr Pants/Shorts & JO
Unbutton your belt. Open your fly. Boner in your underwear (briefs/boxers)? Attr. GWM, 40's, likes dropping my pant w/other men (in jeans, khakis, suits, uniforms) for mutual JO. ☎ 5944.

Wanted: Big Firm Butt
Versatile, 5'11", 23", built, hung big, needs Cau men, 20-30's, well-built w/big hairy butt to eat & fuck. ☎ 6132.

Vietnamese Are Number One
WM ISO Vietnamese friends. Love Viet people, food, culture, now help me to speak Vietnamese. me: HIV-, 5'8", 160#, 50#. You: HIV-, any age. Let's go have some pho. ☎ 6133.

Working Staff
East Bay handsome, blue collar worker, swimmers build, 5'8", 145#, ISO butch goodlooking top to pump my bubble butt. Uniform a plus. NS HIV-. U2B. ☎ 6134.

Let's Get Together
GWM, 6', 180, HIV-, NS/NM, likes 6" to suck & get fucked, watch X video for fun hot times, age & race not factor. Please call. ☎ 6135.

Mature Black Stud
Jet black throat choker needs an oral expert to drain me 3x weekly. Please no beards/goatees (they scratch), indirect phone numbers, other hassles. Suck and run. ☎ 6136.

Hairy Top Fist Daddy Seeks
Serious bottom with/without experience. Once or reg basis. Me: 6'1", 185#, 37, brn/blue, stache, gym body, seeks thin to muscular boys/men, 20-40, for intense sexual pleasure. Tight ass, defined abs and arms are all pluses. Do it! ☎ 6138.

Hot Bottom Boy Alert
Butch, Greek active to guy, 6'1", 185#, 37, brn/blue, stache, gym body, seeks thin to muscular boys/men, 20-40, for intense sexual pleasure. Tight ass, defined abs and arms are all pluses. Do it! ☎ 6138.

Get It Up And Show It Off
Stand in your window and show your hard dick to a pair of appreciative eyes on the street or tell me about your exhibitionistic scene, experiences. ☎ 6139.

Just Shut-Up And Ride
WM, 30, 5'10", 195#, blond hair/blue eye, muscle hunk wants good-looking, masculine men to pump my full of squirt—anytime—Call now. ☎ 6141.

FF Bottom/Top
30's GWM, HIV-, IS0, playsmates for FF/GWM and move, PA's tattoos. Hairy are pluse for fun or more. ☎ 6125.

Big Cocks Seek Yng Sexy Bottom
2 guys with big cocks looking for versatile young boy for sex and porno. You: under 25, smooth, nice body, big cock, and attractive. Us: masculine, sexy, early 30's. ☎ 6142.

Free Naked Fun
Refreshingly sensual massage available for young masculine guys with tight lean builds by healthy trim masculine WM 40. ☎ 6143.

Mustard Handky (8"+)
Hot, handsome, hairy, bottom, 35/6'2"/195, good shape sks well hung men 4 action. Deluxe deep throat and premium bubble butt. Bareback and kink options. ☎ 6144.

Oral Slave
Gdkng GWM bio/blk grn, 5'11", 155#, 36, needs dominant master, with hairy chest & arms, for cock-sucking, rimming, body worship, WS, TT, BJ, etceteras. Very submissive. ☎ 6145.

Hot Guy W/Tee Ring Sks Barefoot
Buddy. Masculine, tan, goodlooking East Bay GWM, 5'8", 140#, HIV-, craves reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, massaging, naked body closeness, safe JO, fantasies. Light odor, toughened soles OK. Further friendship possible. ☎ 6146.

It's The Bondage!
Attr. GWM, 37, 5'6", 145#, seeks strict part-time house slave, age/looks unimportant, willingness to clean & service is, must be masculine, submissiv. ☎ 5942.

Pull Down Yr Pants/Shorts & JO
Buddy. Masculine, tan, goodlooking East Bay GWM, 5'8", 140#, HIV-, craves reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, massaging, naked body closeness, safe JO, fantasies. Light odor, toughened soles OK. No attitudes. ☎ 6151.

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is WEDNESDAY at 5 PM, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Mummification
At Leathernecks I saw a bottom have vacuum cylinders put on his nipples and dick. He was then mummified and I fantasize about having this done to me. ☎ 5945.

Garter Belt & Stockings
GWM, 40, 165#, bottom novice, looking for dominant bear top, safe play only. ☎ 5946.

Hang Out With A Hard-On?
GWMs seeks guys for hot, exhibitionistic JO. We like to meet at different, sleazy locations around the city. Come on and walk around with us. ☎ 6043.

River Area Top For Lthr Play
Submitive fit GWM familiar w/lthr scenes, HIV-, seeks safe saddle training & more by aggressive rough master. Uncut built black studs A+. ☎ 6044.

Hot Tits In Seattle
Goodlooking GWM couple. Two bears top & bottom into hot man sex & hairy tit work for men over 40. Give a growl if coming on. Hairy big chested A+. ☎ 6045.

If You're A Macho Man With A Mustache and a van then suck my fat cock in the back of it. ☎ 6046.

Nasty Slut Cunt
Submits to str8 redneck fuckers. Spit on, piss on/in mouth VA humili. You and bitches gang bang hungry nymphy cunt. The bitch. ☎ 6047.

Nipples
Handsome young looking 50 year old, HIV+, seeks nipples for hours of mutual play, other forms of play OK, but nipples are a must. HIV+ persons preferred but all considered. ☎ 6048.

Experienced Leather Bottom
Seeks experienced master for bondage and S&M. I am, 5'11", 190, masculine, good build/looks, safe sex oriented, no Druggies/drunks. ☎ 6049.

Tit Pig Needs Udder Enlargement
Hot looking Pig, shaved head, pink goatee, 38/155/6'1", big bow nipples steady tit work. Me: clamps, weights, vacuum, video cam, you: facial hair, sick imagination, very hot verbal guy. Make'em huge! ☎ 6050.

ISO Preppie Yuppie Types
Seeking for young prep/puppie types who want to just kick back while I give them oral pleasure all over. ☎ 6051.

Your Hand And Strap
Applied to my bare bottom is what I deserve. GWM, 40's, seeks strict Dad to take down my pants haul me across his knee and spank me long and hard. ☎ 6052.

Oral Slave
Gdkng GWM bio/blk grn, 5'11", 155#, 36, needs dominant master, with hairy chest & arms, for cock-sucking, rimming, body worship, WS, TT, BJ, etceteras. Very submissive. ☎ 6145.

Tarzan Wrestling!
6', 180#, Tarzan seeks friendly guys to wrestle. Clean technique. Nobody gets hurt. Both guys win. Friendly muscular guy, fun to wrestle with. My mat or nude beach. Scared? I'll lay ya win. ☎ 5950.

Super Stiff, Super Thick Cocks
Fit, sexy, senior man plays with vacuum device seeks others. Upper Height. ☎ 6155.

Free Nude Sketch Of Your Body
In my private studio. Pose naked with a friend or solo. Hard or relaxed. Take home free drawing. Good muscles only. ☎ 6156.

Older Man Likes Older Men
Goodlooking PGWM, good body, hair, eyes, height/etc. Not into scene, ISO "travel" companion, 40's-50's, more? Info? Call. ☎ 6157.

Muscle Worship
WM, late 40's, seeks muscular guys of any size into pumping up, posing, flexing and being admired. Especially like defined biceps, hot pecs. Asians a plus. ☎ 6147.

Hard Nipples - Hard Cuban Dick
Suck and bite hard on my big nipples while I stroke my big cuban head, let's pig each other with spit. Big men A+. All races. ☎ 6148.

Daytime Asshole Eater
"Get your asshole eaten by a pro!" ☎ 6149.

Men In Spandex
GBM, 32, 6'2", 175#, attractive, wants to get together with you for fun and play in and out of spandex, jockstraps, speedos etc. All races welcome. Give me a chance. ☎ 6150.

Expert Deep Throat Service
Given to extra well hung men wearing business suits who need relief given by a mature dedicated phallic worshiper with respectful attitude. ☎ 6152.

COUPLES

Open My Partner Up
Hot couple, 36/43 positive. New to SF from NJ. Into kinky action, FF, toys, bondage, rimming, etc. Be 35-50, goodlooking, good shape. ☎ 5947.

Fill Me Up
GWM, 50, oral-anal bottom seeks a secure couple, 45+, HIV-. Am in great shape, 5'10", 175#. Race unimp. wt prop to hgt. ☎ 5948.

Two Masters For One Boy
Two Masters want full-time boy for training, discipline and servitude. Boy must be open, honest, and desire to please in every aspect in safe, secure, leather home. Apply now. ☎ 6053.

GWC Seek Asian Buddies
Attractive couple, HIV-, 40's, seeking attractive Asian for mutual affection & friendship. Are you up to twice the passion? ☎ 6153.

Looking For Butch Bottom
B/W cpl both 33, 7.5/7, in shape. You: under 35, black, white or Latino, goodlooking, nice body. Into partying, big cocks, hot steamy sex. If it works let's repeat it!!! ☎ 6154.

Tarzan Wrestling!
6', Tarzan seeks friendly guys to wrestle. Clean technique. Nobody gets hurt. Both guys win. Friendly muscular guy, fun to wrestle with. My mat or nude beach. Scared? I'll lay ya win. ☎ 5950.

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Goodlooking PGWM, good body, hair, eyes, height/etc. Not into scene, ISO "travel" companion, 40's-50's, more? Info? Call. ☎ 6157.

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Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Honoring
Magnus Hirschfeld

Photo Credit

An impressive group of progressive cultural organizations are putting together a major city-wide festival commemorating the centennial of Magnus Hirschfeld's formation of the world's first organization dedicated to ending intolerance against homosexuals.

"The Legacy of Magnus Hirschfeld: One Hundred Years Toward Sexual Liberation" will run May 14-July 20 and include lectures, films, symposia, and other presentations organized by such institutions as The Goethe Institut, the German Cultural Center in conjunction with the Harvey Milk Institute, the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, Frameline, the San Francisco Public Library, and the Holocaust Center of Northern California.

"The Legacy of Magnus Hirschfeld" kicks off Wednesday, May 14 (2 p.m.) at the Main Library (100 Larkin Street) with a press conference featuring Mayor Willie Brown who will declare May 14 "Magnus Hirschfeld Day." ▼

Chemical Brothers:
rave or rock concert?

by Adrian Roberts

Was it a rave or a rock concert? The truth is, last Sunday's sold-out Chemical Brothers show was actually a little of both. While the techno rhythms of the music were pure rave, the general vibe of the event was more akin to a big rock show. For example, while most of the crowd did that blissed-out, Ecstasy-induced rave dance, in typical rock concert fashion, they all danced *facing* the stage—as if watching two dweebish guys hitting buttons and twiddling knobs was actually interesting! The Chemical Brothers obviously know their stage presence isn't much, so they brought along an impressive arsenal of film loops, slides, and Intellibeams to keep things visually stimulating, while strobe lights relentlessly pummeled the audience, producing hypnotic effects even without the assistance of drugs.

By combining hard techno grooves and hip-hop samples with a bombastic rock sensibility, London's Chemical Brothers have easily become the bright shiny hope for what the U.S. record industry is now calling "electronicca," the new catch-all term for electronic music. Their recently-released second album, *Dig Your Own Hole*, begins with a Schooly D sample—"Back with another one of those block rockin' beats!"—and builds from there, layering sample upon sample until a throbbing breakbeat tears it all



Richard Wedon

Tom Rowlands and Ed Simons are The Chemical Brothers.

down to start the frenetic process all over again. Underground British dance music has been doing this sort of thing for years, but somehow, The Chemical Brothers have found just the right formula to win over the American audience, as evidenced by the jumping throngs at Oakland's Henry J. Kaiser Auditorium.

This particular venue—where,

incidentally, Laney College hosts its basketball games—was an interesting one. With the institution-like hallways, coupled with the numerous cute, teenaged attendees, the show seemed at times like the coolest pep assembly your high school never had. Either that, or a school dance for the 21st century. After all, this is supposed to be the music of the future. ▼

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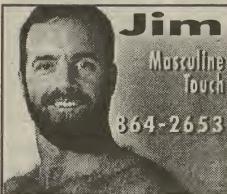
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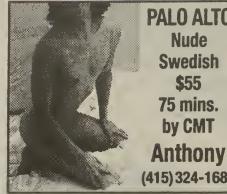
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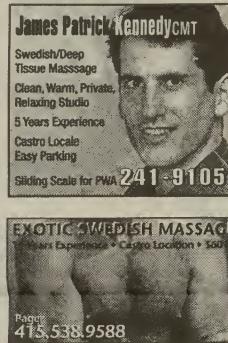
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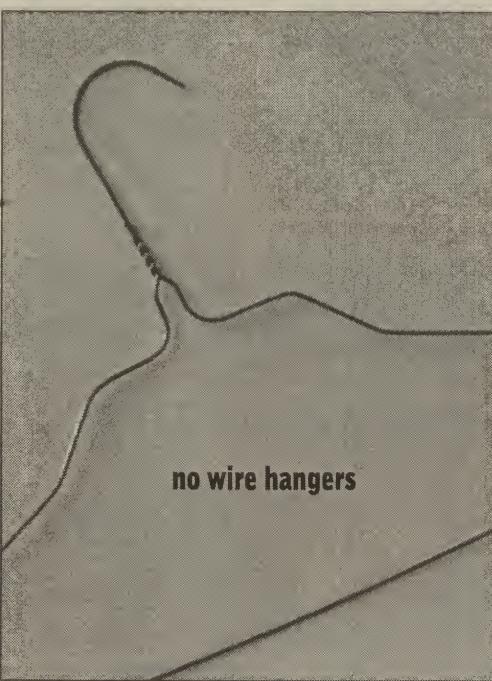
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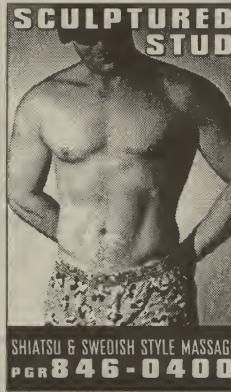
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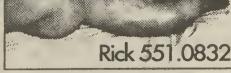
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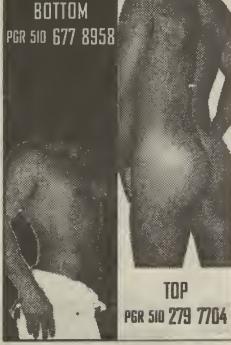
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Versatile 6'2" 185 athletic, trim stud Ste-
ve VM 241-1523 pg 679-1862 24hrs!

MUSCULAR & HOT
5'10", 170#, Hung 8X6
Versatile. 5/18 to 5/15 only
Jake • Page 709-0338 In/Out

CROSSDRESSER!!
Versatile 241-1523 pg 679-1862 24hrs

BIG MAN
6'2" 230LBS MUSCULAR
BUTCH BUBBLE BUTT INTO
MOST SCENES. 406-6589

23yo, 5'8", 145#, 29w, 39c, smooth, cute
ASIAN GO-GO BOY

Strip Show/True Fantasies, All Bay
Huu p(415) 313-9537, \$100 Out, Top
Try a hot dog, Canadian, 35, 6', 185#
8X6 cut. I kick back for service.
Out only. In SF Dan 431-2424 \$70
Uncut men given special attention.

**TONY--SEXY
TALL, CUTE, AND FUN**
25yrs, 6'2", 180
9X6 Uncut, Out Only
(pgr) 280-4020

SLAVE FOR SALE
Masculine, Great Body, Obedient
BD, SM, Kink, Young
Hung Boy to Serve You.
In/Out 24hr David 527-8124

24HR SLAVE FOR RENT
Bear 6'2", 210lb, submissive, roles &
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HUNG MUSCLE BOY
25yo X-gdkg w/a fat 9 1/2" tool smth
well defined body call 280-2736

**BI TOP RUGGED HANDSOME
MUSCULAR GUY**
Available at 648-1762 Bud

**HOT JOCK
SAN JOSE**
408-744-4537

MODELS/ESCORTS

TOTALLY TRASHY TOP

5'9" • 140# • 30W
IN SHAPE,
I LOVE BUTT,
TATTS,
PIERCINGS,
LEATHER
& MOST
SCENES

RANDY
582.9395
24hrs.

CORY 6'2" • 230
50 chest
36 waist
13 feet
27 yrs
Masculine
Friendly
208-5496

THE POWERFUL MASTER in S.F.
HOT, HAIRY, DOMINANT
Experienced, Most Scenes
ATTENTION!
FULLY STOCKED PRIVATE PLAYROOM
TOM 415-487-1296

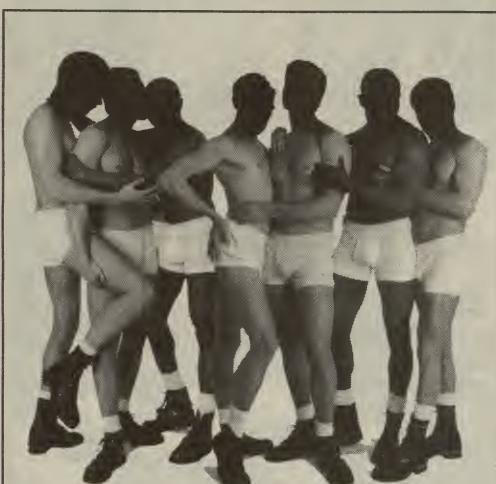
KELLY

GIOVANI

VISA

Giovani is a hot European Stud.
415-998-3754
408-294-5761.
24yo, 5'8", 140

Kelly: All-American Muscle. 34yo, 5'8".
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the men's club

415.346.3311
exclusive male escorts



BEST THROAT & ASS
VERSATILE HOT HUNG
CHRISTOPHER PGR. 449-8007

boyish sadist
private dungeon

415 807 7646

FRIENDLY, VERSATILE, DISCREET SCOTT pgr. 764-9388

SEXY TEEN BOY

19yo, Latino, Very Cute, Very Young, The Face of an Angel and a Body to Die for!
Page 679-3451 Out Only

Hairy Hunk Service Me 303-1235
Handsome Sexy Asian 27, 5'7", 140
Tom Pager 415-708-0432

GET NAKED
Hot, friendly, clean, and discreet
WM, 30, 6', 175#, versatile • Jason
Hotels/Outcalls only (888) 998-5331

XTRA HANDSOME!
Jewish/Italian, 34, 6'2", 180,
Muscular, hairy chest, shilder length
Hr, beautiful thick 8, SF In/out \$100
page Steve 1-888-361-4830

AGGRESSIVE STUD
Hot S/M stud who is rough, raw, ready.
Verbal top, long lasting fun. A ball busting
8.5 inches. Hardcore stud top \$90
in/out welcome sisco 415-861-SEXX

24 YR OLD HUNK
VERY HANDSOME
VERY MUSCULAR
VERY MUSCULINE
6'3", 250lbs Stud Damion 679-1684

LOVE TO KISS
Sexy eyes, hairy chest, buzzed head.
Enjoy the Irish passions of this
38 yo man. Sean 709-0016

BEAUTIFUL BUDED BIG BONER BOY
SHORT & COMPACT
Warm, XXXSex, 31, 5'6", 150#
Out only. Page 764-6940

GOT MILK?
Superior oral from hot built stud.
Kick back and enjoy.
Page Christopher at 449-8007

Into pecs? Check out mine. X-hung top
w/muscles & right attitude. 764-6280

MUSCLE TOP
Hot Bodybuilder, 6'2", 200 lb, 28yo
Well hung, 17'A, 46°C, 32'W, very
Goodlooking (408) 788-7508 Christian

HOT FRAT BOY
26, 5'10", 165, BR/BL, 10X6
Smooth, Cute, Ripped, Hot
BRETT PGR 739-9854

Blue Eyes, Brown Crewcut
TALL LEAN MASCULINE
6'2", 175#, Clean-cut/Shaven
Brian 415-263-1580 1-11PM

E19

\$\$\$ FETISH MEN \$\$\$
We're looking for hot leather/uniform guys for
FETISH and **KINK** videos. **TOP PAY** for
those who qualify!

Bob Jones
512-7402
Jim Wigler
673-1284

#1 BEST MOST SCENES
Big Ch - B.B. • 24 HOURS

PAGER
415-605-2433

boyish sadist
private dungeon

cute
28yo.
top
x-thick
5'11"-150#
Jeff-338-4132

2 HOT PUNX
19 & 23yo. Sexy skinny boys, showoff.
626-9306

6'3", 200, 30 y/o Goatee, Br/B1
HOT JR. EXEC.!!
Hung & Vers. 24Hrs 921-8607

ROUGH BLK TRADE
Wants 2 force U2 your knees. 2 consume
my 8' cut of thick blk manhood. 58",
170#, 30 yo, attract top muscle-stud
C42/W29/A16/Q25 No Drug/Rushed jobs
Domin expert 100 Robert 829-7595 out
My Muscle Butt Your Face 626-RIDE

HOT LATINO BOYS
18-20 (415) 219-7331

27yo Tall, Lean, Skinhead
KINK MERCENARY
Filthy, Demanding, 764-6627

Intense Exmilitary Top
TRAINING 764-6627

6'2" Smooth Healthy Handsome
CUTE BLOND BOY!
Over 9', Thick 908-6758

6'3" 225# FIREMAN
28 muscular, masculine & xx handsome
No disappointments. Outcalls 679-3168

SACRAMENTO HUNK
(916) 819-0447 Built Chest/Arms

DOMINATION!!
24 hrs In/Out Nathan 487-7662

CUTE YOUNG BOY
19yr old, 5'10", 150 lbs, 7 1/2,
Uncut, smooth body, beautiful face
And great personality. Pgr 679-8843

Call This Ad!!!
26 y/o Handsome man! Slender but muscular,
easygoing & comfortable to be with!
Versatile, Call & let's talk! In/Out
will Travel! 24hrs Nathan 487-7662

KINKY BOYTOY
Sexy Smooth Boy w/Tight Body Great
Batt. Loves to Please. 5'7", 135 lbs,
24 yr Ph 558-9351

TRY A HAMBURGER
LONG HAIR, 6'2", 9" UNCURT, BI
JOE • 415-790-1630

E19

Athletic MUSCULAR
Handsome Safe
MASCULINE
HOT Well Hung
Discreet VERSITILE
6ft 175lb 8" thick
KURT (415) 201-7189
Mature men and Hotel calls encouraged 24 hr.

Release the Animal Within You!
Wild Top Boy for Frenzied Fun
5'9", 140lbs. Smooth, 9" thick
Page Hunter Now (415) 709-8960

Hot, Young, Tall, Smooth & Fun
Alternative Boy • 21yo. In/out
MASON • 474-6786

COLLEGE JOCK
25yo, Extremely Handsome, Rock hard
5'9", 160, Br/Gr, 7 1/2" cut, muscle
Ass, Deep throat 415-739-7312

DOMINANT TOP
Attractive, aggressive, mature and experienced!
38 y/o, 5'8", 155#, hung, cut & fun. Boyish good looks • expert, skilled top. Basic or S&M • leather• spanking • FF • tops • buttplay • Master/slave. Friendly & easy going or rough. Novices or advanced. Sane 415-883-1663 Brian. Out. Late OK

CUTE & FRIENDLY
Kissable cuddle boy w/smooth
Athletic body & great butt
5'6", 130 lbs. Pgr 679-1058

Distinguished Age 40
Handsome Hung 8 and Thick
\$75 Dave 436-9663

Spanking-Paddling-Discipline & Butt Massage 773-9130 Kory-Yes!

Best Ride For The Buck

MOUTACHED TOP MAN
CALL 415-MAN-TUBE

Harvard Rowing Team
WASP good looks/Ripped Body
Expensive Steve 794-8539

CUTE 23 YR OLD
5'8", 140 lbs, smooth, clean cut
Call Chad at 241-9381

Feet Hands Socks Thighs 773-9130

LEATHER/SM/FANTASIES
Tough dominant top, 38yo, 6'1", 210#, 7" uncult, blue eyes, flat top, mustache. Into leather, SM, bondage, WS, CBT, fantasy, beginner-heavy. Have equipment Scott (415) 790-0902. In or Out calls

27yo handsome exmilitary Top
Blue eyes, shaved head, 6'3", 165#, with 8" downcurved for your throat Kal 764-6627 pgr In/Out 24/7

Football, wrestling uniform; speedos J/O strip show \$40/60 Matt 552-7224

Long Hair Sensual Nice Trim Body
22YO VIETNAMESE
Goodlooking Young Call 582-2889

PERSONALS

MODELS/ESCORTS

The image is a collage of 12 black and white advertisements for male escorts, arranged in three rows of four. Each ad includes a photo of the model, their name, dimensions, and contact information.

- MAX**
208-3003
• Super defined
w/ a beautiful ex-
otic face
• College athlete
• Hot top/bottom
• 10 uncut inches
• 5'11"-175lbs
- VIDEO STAR COUGAR CASH**
6'
175lbs
Solid
Bondage or Escort
922.4805
- INDULGE YOURSELF!**
IN/OUT CALLS
357.0705
- RUSTY**
9x6
FALCON MODEL
(415) 280-8260
- PLAYGUY MODEL**
FEB. 1996
MASSAGE
ESCORT
STRIPPER
VIDEO
ROCKY
280-8002 PGR
GFT, SMOOTH SWIMMER'S
BUILD, 8" UNCUT
- ANDRE** 597-3613
- Falcon Star**
Cliff Parker
245-1211 PGR
- sunday**
Extremely Attractive
27 yrs
5'10"
#165
Blond
Scott
280-0821
- Anthony**
Photo: RAM STUDIOS
6'2"
8 1/2 x 6
27 y.o.
415.861.6027
Serving all bay areas
- MARCO**
pgr
2
7
0
3
3
4
9
9 X 6
807-7787
- Steve**
Perfect Legs and Ass
6'2", 8"
Blond, Blk
22 yrd God
Photo: RAM STUDIOS
415.552.8143
- San Jose**
408-421-7163
- CLARK**
270-0919
5'9"
160 lb
- Gregory**

BAY AREA REPORTER

PERSONALS ORDER FORM

Indicate
Type Style
Here ▼

DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY. Payment must accompany ad. No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019. Display advertising rates available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular	4.50
All subsequent lines	3.00
CAPS	double price
BOLD	double price
X-BOLD	triple price

PAYMENT

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

CONTACT INFORMATION

**DELIVER OR
MAIL WITH**

BAY AREA
REPORTER
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco,
CA 94103

Money Order
 Visa
 MasterCard

Card Number
Expiration Date
Signature
Name

Name	
Address	
City	
Number of Issues	Classification

WANT DICK, SEE DICK,
MEET DICK...

GET DICK!

THE SLUT LINE—
TOTALLY UNCENSORED, ONE-TO-ONE
LIVE BACKROOM, INSTANT REPLY
BULLETIN BOARD FOR MEN WANTING
SEX NOW & PHOTO SWAPPING
TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING

PLAY LONGER ON
THE SLUT LINE
IT'S CHEAP & DIRTY
1-900-844-5656
\$2.49 FOR 48 HOURS

FREE REGULAR & ESCORT LISTINGS
CALL 415-398-1616 USE PIN #95601



WWW.MASTERVU.COM

ADULTS ONLY/GAY OWNED AND OPERATED/CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS/212-688-4934 10AM-10PM

You don't need
a photo of some **plastic, overdone**
muscle clone to get you **hot.**

What you need is... **RAUNCHY MASTERS**
PIG BOTTOMS **SUBMISSIVE SLAVES**
HAIRY DADDIES **SWEATY JOCKS**
MUSCLE BOTTOMS **ROUGH TRADE**
SERVICE BOYS **AGGRESSIVE TOPS**
TOTAL SLUTS *What are you waiting for?*

Hot, live one-to-one & bulletin boards

24 hours for \$2.40 - only 10¢ per hour!

H A R D C O R E
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FREE LISTINGS... call (415) 398-2600 & enter PIN #93602

Adults only
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Charter Communications
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SEX ON THE EDGE